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HISTORICAL READINGS

ILLUSTRATIVE OF
AMERICAN PATRIOTISM

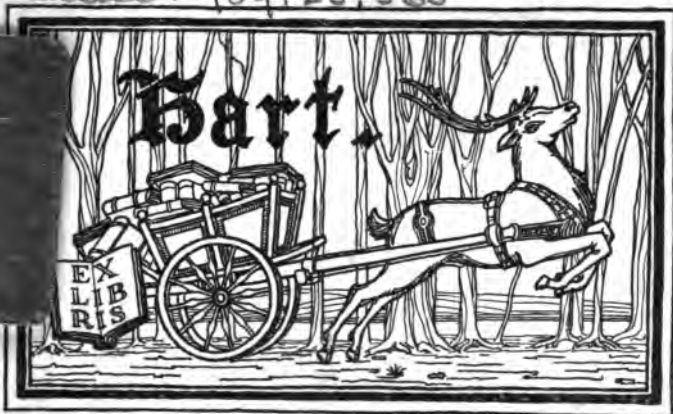


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The Spirit of Seventy-six.

HISTORICAL READINGS

Illustrative of American Patriotism

BY

EDWARD S. ELLIS, A.M.

AUTHOR OF THE "STANDARD HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES,"

"STORY OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST NATIONS,"

"HISTORY OF OUR COUNTRY," ETC.

*'Tis the Star Spangled Banner; oh, long may it wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.*

WITH MANY ILLUSTRATIONS



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INTRODUCTION.

MY YOUNG FRIENDS,—I have many interesting stories to tell you of American patriotism and love for the flag of our country. It stirs our blood to read of those who risked their lives, and who, in many instances, died for the honor of that glorious emblem, the most beautiful that floats in the sunlight of heaven. Your eye kindles and your heart swells when you look upon the Star-Spangled Banner, and I am sure that, as you read what I have to tell you about it, your patriotism will become more glowing, your love for that flag deeper, and your devotion to your country more profound than before.

But in order that these stories shall be clear to you, you must first learn the history of the period to which they relate; and since we are to begin by speaking of the colonial days, that is, when our country was in its infancy, we will first take up the history of the colonial times.

EDWARD S. ELLIS.

MONTCLAIR, N. J., *December 1, 1902.*

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HISTORICAL READINGS.

I.

OUR COLONIAL HISTORY.



FOUR hundred years ago scarcely a man dreamed of such a country as the United States. There was not a city or town between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. All was a vast wilderness, over which the red Indian roamed—hunting, fishing, and making war upon others of the same race. Had you landed where the great city of New York now stands, and walked clear across to the present city of San Francisco, you would not have met a white person nor seen any one but savages. For centuries the waves of the oceans had beat against its shores, and the people on the other side of

the Atlantic never thought that, far to the westward, lay a continent larger than Europe, and waiting for some one to come and find it.

But as the years rolled on, the navigators began



Christopher Columbus.

to believe that by going to the westward they could reach the shores of India. Finally, on August 3, 1492, Christopher Columbus, an Italian, sailing under the flag of Spain, left the town of

Palos, in that country, in charge of three small vessels, and, after a stormy voyage across the Atlantic, sighted San Salvador, one of the Bahama Islands. Believing that it belonged to the East Indies, he called the natives *Indians*, by which name they have ever since been known. He visited a number of other islands, and, sailing away again, arrived at Palos March 15, 1493.

As you may suppose, the news of his great discovery caused excitement all through Europe. Columbus made several other voyages to the New World, and after him came navigators from Spain, from England, from Holland, and from France. I cannot tell you the particulars of these different visits by the explorers belonging to the leading nations of Europe, but we must learn about the colonies from which the United States grew. The French gave their attention mostly to Canada, the Spanish to the southern portions of the country, while the Dutch did little except to trade with the Indians.

A hundred years and more went by before a permanent or lasting settlement was made by the English. You see, the different nations in Europe had so many wars and quarrels of their own



Landing of Columbus.

to attend to that they did not give much attention to North America. But, by and by, they saw what golden opportunities awaited them on this side of the ocean, and began to send settlers to our shores. So it came about that in the month of May, 1607, three small English ships, with about a hundred men and no women, sailed up the James River, and at a place some fifty miles from its mouth landed and began a settlement, which they named Jamestown; the name, like that of the river, being in honor of their king, James.

The people had a hard time of it, for they suffered from hunger, sickness, and the enmity of the Indians; but they held fast, and after a while other emigrants arrived and the colony began to prosper. When you study the history of the United States, you will learn the interesting story of Pocahontas and Captain John Smith; of the introduction of African slavery in 1619; of the massacres by the Indians; of Bacon's Rebellion; the burning of Jamestown, and many other incidents connected with the oldest English colony. But Virginia continued to increase in numbers, and many of the people pushed farther into the



Ruins of Settlement at Jamestown.

country, so that the population was more than four times as great in 1750 as it was fifty years before. Numerous towns were founded, and Virginia was among the most populous and powerful of the colonies at the time of the American Revolution.

NEW YORK.

In the next chapter I shall have something to tell you about Captain Henry Hudson, who discovered and sailed up the Hudson River, two years after the beginning of the settlement of Jamestown. The Dutch saw so fine a prospect for trade with the Indians that they put up a few huts on Manhattan Island in 1613, and took possession of the surrounding country, which included New Jersey, and to which they gave the name of New Netherland. Some of the Dutch went up the river as far as the present site of Albany, and began a settlement. About the same time others crossed the Hudson into New Jersey and established several trading posts.

The Dutch gave the name of New Amsterdam to the settlement on Manhattan Island. The

English captured it from them in 1664, and, though the Dutch retook it in 1672, it was given back to England less than two years later, when the two countries made peace, and it remained an



Hudson Sailing up the Hudson River.

English colony until the Revolution. Its history during that period has little of special interest. It grew strong and prosperous, and took an active part in the colonial wars, of which I shall have something to say later on.

NEW ENGLAND.

On the 6th of September, 1620, about a hundred men, women, and children sailed from England in the *Mayflower* for the New World. These people, because of their strict religious belief, were called "Puritans," and they were persecuted so cruelly in England that they made up their minds to go to the wild solitudes, thousands of miles away, where they could worship God as they thought right. They were content to suffer cold, hunger, sickness, and perils from the red men, so long as they were left free to enjoy their religion. These people are also called *Pilgrims* on account of their wanderings.

The Pilgrims landed on the bleak New England coast, stepping upon the Plymouth Rock on a cold, snowy day, December 21, 1620. Like the Virginians, they had suffered grievously, and more than once it looked as if all must perish. But they were a brave, God-fearing people, who had never a thought of going back to England; they toiled and prayed and kept brave hearts, until times began to mend and other emigrants came across the ocean to join them.

The people about whom I have just been telling you formed the Plymouth Colony. In 1628, another company, known as the Massachusetts Bay Colony, made a settlement near Salem, and in the course of the following twenty years the settlers in Massachusetts increased to twenty thousand.

They had a good deal of trouble with the Indians, and some of the wars with them were of the fiercest nature; but the colony grew steadily, and from the first was the most powerful in New England. In truth, Massachusetts was the head of the family, and the colonies around her were her children, of whom, more than once, she had to take care. She sent a large party into Connecticut in 1636, which began a number of settlements. A few years earlier, Massachusetts compelled Roger Williams to leave the colony, because he said some things in his sermons which the authorities did not like. You see that while the Pilgrims went to New England to gain liberty to worship God, they were not willing that others should have the same privilege. Williams and a few friends made their way to the present State of Rhode Island and founded the city of Provi-

dence. So here were two colonies, formed by emigrants, not from the other side of the Atlantic, but from Massachusetts.

Now let us look at the colonies on the north. There were settlers in Maine and New Hampshire almost as early as in Massachusetts, but they grew very slowly in number. In 1631, the territory was divided into two portions, the western under the name of New Hampshire and the eastern under that of Maine. New Hampshire became a royal province in 1679; that is to say, it was governed by rulers appointed by the King of England, but the present State of Maine was added to Massachusetts in 1652-1653. You are wondering all this time about Vermont. Well, there was no Vermont until after the Revolution, though a number of settlers made their homes there at an early date.

NEW JERSEY, PENNSYLVANIA, AND DELAWARE.

I have already told you something about the settlement of New Jersey, which, as you remember, was first made by the Dutch from New York. The province was divided into East and West Jersey in 1676. In the following year a large

number of Quakers settled at Burlington, which is therefore the oldest town on the Delaware above Philadelphia. Other Quakers came over from England, and in 1702 New Jersey became a royal province. It was attached to New York, but became independent of that province in 1738. The location of New Jersey saved it from all trouble with the Indians, and there were no important events on its soil until the Revolution.

The great State of Pennsylvania was settled by that good man, William Penn, who paid the English king for the province, and then paid the Indians, of whose rights no one else ever seemed to think or care. He was a wealthy Quaker, whose people, like the Puritans, suffered persecution in England, and who sought a refuge in the New World. Penn's government of Pennsylvania might well serve as a model for all the others. He allowed perfect freedom of conscience to every one, and strove to lead all to live as he lived himself, by the Golden Rule.

Having sent out a large number of Quakers, Penn and some of his friends followed, and landed at Newcastle, Delaware, in the autumn of 1682. Philadelphia, meaning "The City of Brotherly

Love," had been laid out the year before, and was prosperous from the first. Throughout the Revolution it was the largest city in the country.

At the beginning, Delaware formed a part of Pennsylvania, but in 1701 Penn gave permission to the three counties to organize under a separate government. A number of Swedes and Finns had settled as early as 1638 on the Delaware, a few miles below Philadelphia. The Governor of New York claimed the territory and warned them to leave, but they did not go. There was a good deal of wrangling between the Swedish governors and those of New York; and in 1655 grim old Governor Stuyvesant (sti' ve sant), of New York, sent a force up the Delaware which captured the Swedish posts and ended Swedish rule in America. The Swedes did not care at all, but were satisfied to remain under Dutch rule until William Penn came along, when they were just as content to place themselves under his care.

MARYLAND, THE CAROLINAS, AND GEORGIA.

It is strange that a civilized country like England, which claimed to be Christian, and to act in accordance with the teachings of the Savior,

should bitterly persecute those who differed from her in regard to Church doctrines. You have learned that the Pilgrims and the Quakers were driven to the wilds of America to escape persecution in England. But they were not the only ones, for the Roman Catholics suffered from the same cause, and some of them also crossed the Atlantic to seek a place where they could worship God as they saw fit. As early as 1634 a party of them settled in Maryland, which they named in honor of Queen Henrietta Maria. They called the settlement St. Mary's. These settlers won the friendship of the Indians by treating them as kindly and justly as did William Penn.

The Virginians claimed the territory and tried to drive out the Catholics, who had acted very liberally toward the Protestants. Civil war followed, and there were dreadful times, the Catholics sometimes being in power and then the Protestants. Finally, in 1657, Virginia and Maryland came to an agreement, by which all lived in peace. Maryland was made a royal province in 1691, but a quarter of a century later it became a proprietary province; that is to say, it was placed under the rule of the Catholic proprietor or owner, who

was the fourth Lord Baltimore, and it continued such until the Revolution.

The king of England, in 1663, granted the territory occupied by the Carolinas to a party of noblemen. In the same year, a settlement was begun at the mouth of the Cape Fear River. Immigrants from Virginia, from New England, and from the Bermuda Islands made their homes along the northern shore of Albemarle Sound. The present city of Charleston was founded in 1680. Matters went so ill that the proprietors, in 1729, surrendered their right of government and seven-eighths of the land to the English king. The colonies were divided into North and South Carolina, and remained royal provinces until the Revolution.

One of the best of Englishmen was General James Edward Oglethorpe. He was a fine officer and Christian gentleman, whose heart ached for the poor debtors in England, hundreds of whom were cast into prison because they had not enough money to pay their debts, and died cruel deaths, while their wretched families suffered starvation. In the hope of bettering their condition, General Oglethorpe secured a

grant of land from the king, which extended from Savannah on the north to the Altamaha River on the south. With a hundred and twenty emigrants he landed at Charleston in the winter of 1732 and 1733, and all were warmly welcomed.

In 1733, Oglethorpe founded Savannah, and he always treated the Indians as justly as Penn and Lord Baltimore, and therefore had no trouble with them; but he had the worst sort of neighbors on the south. These were Spaniards, who claimed the territory, and tried to drive out Oglethorpe and his friends; but, though the Spaniards had five times as many soldiers as the English, Oglethorpe managed matters so well that they were defeated at all points.

I suppose you have known of cases where children have been spoiled by too much petting on the part of their parents and friends. It isn't well to let young folks have their way in everything, for, though they may think they know more than their fathers and mothers (of course, it is not so with you), yet when these same children become older, they are sure to learn the great mistake they have made.

Now, it was something like that with Georgia.

The settlers were petted and helped and humored until they were spoiled. Some of the laws were bad, and the people became dissatisfied. Twenty years after the first settlement of Savannah, there were only three small villages in the colony, whose population was less than two thousand. In June of that year the grant was given back to the king, and the colony became a royal province. It started at once into a new life, which was so vigorous that it never had any setback, and in the course of time Georgia won the proud name of the Empire State of the South.

THE COLONIAL WARS.

I have thus briefly sketched the settlement of the thirteen first colonies, or, as we generally call them, the thirteen original States. You will notice that they were strung along the Atlantic coast from Maine to Florida. To the westward stretched the mighty wilderness all the way to the Pacific, and very little or nothing was known of it. The whole population of those colonies was less than that of the city of New York to-day.

I told you the French settled in Canada, and were therefore, on the north, the neighbors of the

English. They never would have had any trouble with each other, except for the quarrels of their respective rulers at home. England and France had long been rivals, and often went to war with each other. That should have made no difference with their colonists in America, but those people had no more sense than to begin fighting like dogs, simply because the monarchs of England and France commanded them to do so.

The Indians were so fond of killing and massacre, that they gladly took part, sometimes on one side and sometimes on the other, but generally on the side of the French. It would make you shudder if I were to tell you about the burning settlements, the tomahawking of innocent men, women, and children, the carrying away of captives, and the woe and suffering on every hand. Let us pray that the time may soon come when there will be no more wars, and men will live in peace, just as God intended they should.

King William's War broke out between England and France in 1689, and lasted until 1697. The French gained the support of the Indians, who committed many outrages, but there was nothing of account accomplished by either side.

Queen Anne's War lasted from 1702 to 1713, and was between France and Spain on the one hand and England on the other. The New England frontier suffered dreadfully from the Indians, who showed no mercy to any one, and hundreds of homes were desolated.

King George's War was between England and France, and, beginning in 1744, lasted until 1748. The English colonies performed a brilliant exploit in 1745, by capturing the fortress of Louisburg, which was the strongest in the world. It cost many lives, and the news of its fall caused thousands of bonfires to be kindled among the colonies and in England, while all the bells were set ringing and people went wild with delight. Then, when the treaty of peace was signed, Louisburg was given back to France, and all the bravery of the colonists went for naught, which is a very striking proof of the folly of war.

The greatest colonial war was that which broke out between France and England in 1755, and is known as the French and Indian War. This was really a struggle on the part of the two nations for the possession of this country. Each was determined to gain it, and the dispute could be

settled only by fighting. The French built a line of military posts from the lakes on the north down the Mississippi Valley toward New Orleans. They intended to establish a great empire in that valley, and did not hesitate to enter the territory which England claimed as hers. You have read how Governor Dinwiddie of Virginia sent a young man clear across Pennsylvania to the French commander, who was building a fort near Lake Erie, to protest against what he was doing and to warn him to stop. This journey is of interest to us because the young man was **GEORGE WASHINGTON**.

Since the French refused to stop their work or to leave the disputed territory, the war began. At first, everything seemed to go in favor of the French. In July, 1755, an English army under General Braddock was attacked in the western part of Pennsylvania by French and Indians, and all would have been massacred by the savages, except for the skill and bravery of young Washington.

After a time, however, the English began to gain ground. Louisburg was captured in the summer of 1758, but the crowning English victory came in September, 1759, when General Wolfe

took the city of Quebec. Both he and the French commander, General Montcalm, were killed during the battle, but the triumph was complete. Mon-



Montcalm and Wolfe Monument.

treau surrendered the following year, and a treaty between France and England was signed in 1763, by which France gave to England all her possessions in America east of the Mississippi,

except two small islands south of Newfoundland. New Orleans and all the French territory west of the Mississippi were ceded to Spain. Thus France left the American continent, and England became master of the New World.

And now that I have told you the principal events in the history of our country from its discovery down to the dawn of the American Revolution, I am sure you will be interested in learning something about the different flags which played a leading part in those stirring times.

II.

THE VARIOUS FLAGS IN AMERICA DURING COLONIAL TIMES.



IT was not long ago that a gentleman said of the American flag that man never made, and nature never produced, anything more beautiful. These words are true. You may examine hundreds of banners that have been used by different nations, and you will not find one that can compare in symmetry and attractiveness with our own. Not only that, but there is no flag which has so much meaning. The blue field, the stars and the stripes, each has a special significance, and the whole tells the most striking and impressive of stories.

I cannot recall a more pleasing ceremony than one which I have witnessed scores of times at the West Point Military Academy on the Hudson. At the parade on the broad plain near the close

of every pleasant day, directly after the sunset gun is fired, the flag which has been flying on the tall staff since early morning, begins slowly to descend, while the military band plays the "Star Spangled Banner." At the first note every spectator rises to his feet, and all the men and boys stand with uncovered heads until the flag has reached the ground. A group of officers may be chatting at a distant part of the grounds, but the moment they catch the first notes of our national song, they cease speaking, remove their hats, and keep respectful silence until the echoes of the grand old anthem have died out among the mountains and over the bosom of the noble river.

It should be so everywhere throughout the length and breadth of our land. Your teachers have taught you to salute that flag, and you should always bare your heads in its presence, and rise to your feet when you hear the "Star Spangled Banner" played. You should love the flag with your whole heart, and be ready to suffer and, if need be, die for it, just as thousands have suffered and died in the past. It is the emblem of your country—the best and most favored land upon which the sun shines. I am glad to observe

that the spirit of patriotism has been so generally cultivated during the years following the great war for the Union, while the late war with Spain proved that whenever our country needs the services of her sons they flock to her defense as eagerly as they gather at a festival. One blast of the bugle will call them from the plow, the workshop, the desk, the schoolroom, the college, the pulpit, as if it were a summons from heaven to duty.

Now, of course, you wish to learn all about the Star Spangled Banner. Since our country is not yet one hundred and fifty years old, the flag must be still younger. Moreover, more than double that time has passed since the white men first visited these shores, and it follows that they must have brought other flags here, concerning which it will be interesting for you to learn something.

Columbus sailed under the flag of Spain, when he discovered the New World. It was not the red and yellow ensign that you now see floating from Spanish vessels, but a red and white flag, which displayed the arms, or family emblems, of the great Spanish houses of Leon and Castile. They had united to form the kingdom of Spain, which, as you remember, was governed by Ferdi

nand of Aragon and Isabella of Castile. The Spanish flag disappeared long ago from this continent, and the story of how others took its place is one which every boy and girl ought to know.

The explorers and settlers who crossed the Atlantic to the New World sailed under the flags of their respective countries, and the people who made their homes in the different provinces were bound to defend the territory so claimed against all invaders.

Among the brave men who came on this long voyage was Ponce de Leon (pōn'thā dā lā-ōn'), an old Spanish soldier, who was led to make his venture by one of the strangest fancies of which you have ever heard. Wonderful stories had drifted to the other side of the ocean, that somewhere in the southern part of our country bubbled a spring, whose sparkling water brought back youth and vigor to those who were feeble with age. It was a silly story, for there is not, and never can be, any medicine that will make the old young again. Youth once gone is gone forever, with all its golden opportunities and blessings. So, although the Spanish cavalier hunted long and filled himself almost to bursting with the

waters from the different springs in Florida, he never rid himself of a single wrinkle or gained an ounce of strength from the deep draughts he took.

But Ponce de Leon raised the Spanish flag over Florida, while Cartier (*carte-à'*), a French navigator, bore the lilies of his country into Canada.

Spain, as I have told you, gave her attention mainly to the southern portion of our country, because of its favorable climate. You may have heard the name of "De Soto," one of the most famous of Spanish navigators, who led a large party through the Southwest. Had you seen him and his hundreds of followers, dressed in rich garments of silk and velvet, and mounted on their fine horses, you would have thought a prince or king was leading his retinue on a visit to the court of some other monarch. Their handsome hats were trimmed with ostrich plumes, and their standard bearers carried the gorgeous flag of Spain and many other beautiful banners.

I am sorry to say that the Spaniards have always been among the most cruel people in the world, and they have ever delighted in savage deeds. The Indians whom they met wished to be friends

with the strange-looking white men. They were glad to give them food, and tried to please them in every way, but the Spaniards were as merciless as so many wild beasts. They amused themselves by shooting down the innocent natives, sparing



Burial of De Soto.

neither women nor children, and laughing at the agonized sufferings of the hapless ones who had trusted to their honor. In acting in this horrible way, De Soto did just the same as other Spanish explorers before and after him. Balboa, who discovered the Pacific Ocean in 1513, employed a number of natives to guide him across the Isthmus of

Darien. The Indians did their duty faithfully, and, after Balboa had gazed in awe and wonder upon the South Sea, he waved the flag of Spain over the edge of the mighty ocean and claimed it for his country. Then he and his ferocious companions turned about and massacred many of the poor Indians.

I have named* these two explorers because of their discoveries. While Balboa was the first European to look upon the Pacific Ocean, De Soto was the discoverer of the Mississippi River. He spent several years in wandering over the Southwest, his men continually dying from disease and starvation, until only a few were left. The precise course taken by them is not known; but the day at last came when De Soto himself was worn out and had to lie down and die. His followers had told the Indians that their leader would live forever. Now that he was dead, they feared that the red men would turn upon them because of the barbarities inflicted upon the natives. So, in the silence of the night, they rowed out to the middle of the Mississippi, with the body of their leader wrapped about with blankets, which had been weighted with stones, and silently buried it in

the dark depths of the stream. Thus the grand river which De Soto discovered became his grave, and the surviving explorers, who had proudly borne the flag of Spain through hundreds of



Balboa's First Sight of the Pacific.

miles of American wilderness, now straggled homeward.

You have not forgotten the voyage that Henry Hudson made on the river which he discovered and which bears his name. That was in 1609,

and, although he was an Englishman, he was then in the employ of the Dutch East India Company, and the little *Half Moon*, which slowly ascended that noble stream, bore the flag of the Netherlands. Hudson was not looking for any springs that would bring back his youth, nor was he hunting for kingdoms to conquer. The good people of Holland have always been frugal and industrious, and Captain Hudson kept his eyes and ears open for ways of pushing trade in the New World. What he saw led him, on his return to England, to write to his employers a glowing account of the fertile soil, and to show the fine chance of opening a trade with the Indians for the valuable furs which they took from the beavers, otters, foxes, and other animals.

Holland, greatly interested by Hudson's report, was quick to take advantage of the opportunity to extend her trade. Since the region had been discovered by a navigator sailing under her flag, Holland had the right to claim the new country as her own, and she did so. You have learned in your histories the principal facts about the Dutch settlements in the New World.

More important than all the other flags named

was that of England. It was the banner of St. George, and had come down to her from the Middle Ages. Nearly a thousand years ago the Crusaders had marched to far-away Palestine to rescue the tomb of the Savior from the infidels, and under that flag they rallied to the ringing cry of "Advance banners in the name of God and St. George!" Some five years after Columbus discovered America, John Cabot and his son, Sebastian, brought the English flag across the Atlantic to America. It is singular, however, that a century passed before England showed any special interest in the New World. After the Pilgrims began the settlement of New England, she speedily awoke to the possibilities awaiting her on this side of the ocean.

By that time an important change had taken place in the banner of Great Britain, for the cross of St. Andrew of Scotland had been united to that of St. George. This was because King James the First of England had brought the two countries together under his rule. A singular trouble arose over the "king's colors." The Scotch were warmly devoted to the memory of St. Andrew, their patron saint. They had a legend that a

long time before, the cross of St. Andrew flamed out from the heavens, and that on the next day their leaders gained a decisive victory over the king of England, with whom they were striving. In gratitude for this marvelous deliverance, they vowed to carry the cross of St. Andrew on their banners so long as they existed as a nation.

Now, when it was agreed that the two flags



England.



Scotland.



Ireland.



Great Britain.



Great Britain and Ireland.

The Evolution of the Union Flag of Great Britain and Ireland.

should be united, the English and Scotch angrily disputed as to which cross should have the place of honor on the new emblem. England could not be expected to surrender the leading position, and the Scotch vowed they would never degrade their patron saint by giving him second rank. The chief wrangle over the king's colors was more bitter on the sea than on the land. The

king finally settled the quarrel by allowing the vessels of South Britain, or England, to display the cross of St. George, and those of North Britain, or Scotland, to use that of St. Andrew.

The British flag, or red ensign, has the "Union Jack," composed of the crosses of St. George, St. Andrew, and St. Patrick in the upper corner, the body of the flag being red. The crosses of St. George (square) and St. Andrew (diagonal) were first combined in 1606 by James I. In 1801, the St. Patrick's cross (red), typifying the legislative union with Ireland, was superimposed on the St. Andrew's cross (red or white), and is the flag of Great Britain to-day. The "Union Jack" is the same device all over the flag.

It is not known with certainty what flag was carried by the *Mayflower*, when she brought the Pilgrims to the bleak New England coast in the winter of 1620, but there is little doubt that it was the red cross of St. George. Be that as it may, it was not long before the Puritans were vexed over a question concerning the flag, which, try as they would, could not be settled so as to please everybody. They were all loyal Englishmen, and wished to honor the flag

of their country, but that flag bore the figure of a cross on its folds, which they considered a sort of idolatry, and feared that in displaying it they were violating the Second Commandment.

One bright morning in 1634, as John Endicott was walking through Salem, thinking over the



The Mayflower.

perplexing question, he looked up and saw the king's colors gracefully waving in front of the governor's gate. Yielding to a fervid impulse, he strode forward, seized the flag, and cut out the cross of St. George. He was led to do this by his conscience, and was ready to meet the punishment which he was sure would follow.

As you may suppose, the daring act caused great excitement. The soldiers, red in the face with anger, came down the street on the "double quick," while the citizens ran out of their houses and hurried to the spot. The captain of the guard, almost bursting with rage, grasped Endicott by the arm, roughly shook him, and called him a rebel and traitor. The stern Puritan calmly replied: "Sir, I am no traitor, but a loyal subject of King James the First, God bless him! but my people and I are resolved that we shall live no longer under this idolatrous emblem, which has been set up among us, and which all the colonies know was given to his Majesty by the Pope."

Now this was not true, but nearly everybody at that time believed it. The captain of the guard would not accept any such excuse, and Endicott was arrested and led off to prison. A week later he was brought to trial by a committee, who declared his action rash and indiscreet. His rank as magistrate was taken from him, and he was forbidden to hold office for one year. A good many were displeased because of this light punishment, but the committee said he had acted "under

tenderness of conscience and not from any evil intent."

But Endicott had a good many friends. He was an excellent man, and even his enemies respected him. He was the founder of Salem, which he thus named because the Hebrew word means "peace." The weight attached to his opinion was shown by the refusal of the Salem militia to march under the "king's colors," and the excitement so grew that a town meeting was held to discuss and decide what was the best thing to do. Some thought it well to appeal to the "wise and godly" in the mother country for advice, while others favored the plan of using red and white roses instead of a cross, because the rose had long been a favorite emblem of England. Perhaps you have read of the "Wars of the Roses," in which the badge of the House of Lancaster was the red rose and that of the House of York the white rose. Being unable to agree, the meeting laid the question over until they should come together again.

Meanwhile, the military commissioners removed the red cross from the regimental standards—that is, the banners carried by the soldiers—though they were willing that the king's colors should be

shown at the king's fort on Castle Island. However, Lieutenant Morris, who commanded the fort, was of a different mind, and for more than a year he refused to display any flag at all. Then, two years later, in 1636, Lieutenant Morris compelled the British ship, *St. Patrick*, to strike her colors. Her commander, naturally, was very angry over what he considered a great insult to his country's flag, but was satisfied when the authorities compelled Lieutenant Morris to apologize to him.

Not long after this incident the British vessel *Hector* dropped anchor in the harbor. A number of the officers went ashore, and made themselves very disagreeable by bragging about their country, which they declared was the greatest in the world, while Englishmen were braver and more loyal than any other people. A citizen, overhearing the boasts, said, with some heat, "You forget, sir, that we also are Englishmen, and as ready to fight for our king and country as you are." "It is false," called out one of the officers, "for you have discarded the king's colors."

In a twinkling a furious fight was under way, and the wranglers pummeled one another so vehemently that the soldiers had to be called in

to stop the riot. They arrested the mate, who was the leader among the officers, and the governor, young Sir Henry Vane, would not release him till he had signed a confession that "he had given out most false and reproachful speeches that did proceed from the rashness and distemper of his own brain without any just cause so to think and speak."

The more thoughtful people were alarmed by these occurrences, for they feared that untrue accounts would be carried to England, and the king would take severe measures against them. Governor Vane was wise. He called a meeting of all the captains then in the port and asked them what they wished him to do. The frank, kind manner of the governor pleased them, and they told him they would not try to make any trouble for the colonists on their return home; but they insisted that proper respect for their sovereign required the display of the king's colors on the fort. To this the governor answered that the commander had no flag. The captains promptly said they would present him with one. There was no help for it, and the doughty lieutenant was compelled not only to raise the king's colors over the fort,

but to display them whenever the British ships passed the station. You may be sure the commander did not like this, for he was a strict Puritan, but he had to obey.

The first colonial banner in New England was made some time between the years 1643 and 1652, the exact date being uncertain, though it was probably the year first named, for it was then that Massachusetts, Connecticut, Plymouth, and New Haven formed a union to protect themselves from the Dutch and Indians. In 1651 Cromwell ordered that the king's colors should be replaced by the original flag of England, which, you know, was St. George's banner. This so disturbed the Puritans, because it retained the St. George's cross, that they sent a request to Cromwell to change the flag; but the great Protector was too busy with more important things at home to pay any attention to the matter. In truth, he gave himself little concern about the colonies three thousand miles away, and it was not long after that Charles II. became King of England.

You have heard of the "Pine Tree Banner," which was sometimes a red flag and sometimes a blue one. In one corner was the cross of St.

George, together with a pine tree, though now and then a hemisphere took the place of the tree. When, in 1652, the colonies established a mint for coining money, they stamped the shillings with the figure of a pine tree, but historians tell us that the pattern was so crude that it was hard to tell whether it were not meant for a cabbage.

When one of these clumsy coins was shown to King Charles II., he flew into a passion, because he thought the colonists were meddling with his royal rights in manufacturing money. How do you imagine the anger of the king was turned aside? Sir Charles Temple assured him that the coins were stamped in his honor, for the tree upon them represented the royal oak, which had been the means of saving the king's life. The monarch was so pleased that he called the colonists a lot of honest dogs, and they were allowed to mint money without any molestation from him.



A Pine Tree Shilling.

The flag used by the New York merchant ships before the Revolution was prescribed by the

"Lord Justices in Council," at the Council Chambers, Whitehall, July 31, 1701. The necessity of a special flag to designate the merchant ships of the colonies, in order to distinguish them from those of the king, led to this order, which forbade such ships to display any other jack than that worn by his Majesty's ships, with the distinction of a white escutcheon in the middle thereof, which mark of distinction might extend to one-half the depth of the jack, in accordance with our illustration. (See plate I.) We have no representations of this flag in the engravings of the period, but it was undoubtedly used for many years.

Now that you have learned how the various foreign flags were brought to this country, I am sure you would like to know how all of them left it.

III.

DISAPPEARANCE OF THE FOREIGN FLAGS FROM AMERICA.



S I have already told you, the Spaniards, under whose flag America was discovered and largely explored, had little or nothing to do with the settlement of the thirteen original States. You will remember that they tried to interfere with General Oglethorpe in Georgia, but it did not take him long to teach them a lesson never to be forgotten. Most of the colonies named were settled by England, but the Dutch early obtained a footing in New Netherland, as the present State of New York and a part of Jersey were called. How England wrested these from Holland and brought them under her flag has already been told, as well as the history of the greatest of all colonial wars—

that between England and France—by which the French flag was driven from the continent. This brings us down to the year 1763.

During that long period the colonial flag underwent no change. The colonies had sealed with their blood their devotion to England, and if King George III. and his advisers had shown the commonest justice and sense they could have held the colonies for many years longer.

How strange it was that within two years after the close of the French and Indian War, Great Britain began her course of injustice which drove her American colonies from her! She insisted upon the right to tax them, but would not allow them to send any member to the English Parliament to help make the laws. This was "taxation without representation," and was so wrong that many leading Englishmen condemned it, some going so far as to declare that if they were Americans they would fight to the death before submitting to the shameful measure.

A law which greatly angered the Americans was one that required stamps to be placed on all legal papers. Now you and I have to place a stamp on every letter we send, but in return for

that, our government carries the letters for us. Moreover, the law which requires us to use these stamps was made by ourselves—that is to say, by our representatives—so there can be no objection to it.

There were other unjust laws made by England, of which you will find full accounts in your histories. I am sure you will never forget that thrilling speech of Patrick Henry in the Virginia House of Burgesses, when he called out, "Give



British Stamps.

me liberty or give me death!" The spirit of resistance spread everywhere, and the struggle for independence was certain soon to open.

As this spirit grew, the Americans used their ingenuity in forming flags to represent their sentiments. These were of many patterns, and some of them would have made you smile. The leading spirit was that of resistance to tyrants. A favorite banner was one bearing the motto,



Patrick Henry Speaking to the Burgesses.

“Liberty, Property, and no Stamps.” In Boston a red flag floated from the topmost branch of a large elm, called “The Tree of Liberty,” and throughout

the Revolution it was used to show that a meeting was to be held there to discuss public matters. To-day you may see a fine building on the corner of Washington and Essex streets, with the figure of an elm carved on its front. It stands on the spot where the famous elm once stood, and the figure is a bas-relief of the celebrated Liberty Tree.

The spirit of rebellion was aflame in all the colonies. A fiery little paper in the city of New York bore at its head the device of a disjointed snake, with the words beneath, "Join or die." Benjamin Franklin had used the design in 1754, when the colonies sent representatives to the congress at Albany. He placed the figure at the head of his *Pennsylvania Gazette*, and by separating the picture of the snake into thirteen pieces, he showed his countrymen that their only safety lay in standing together. It cannot be said that the design was a very attractive one, but all could read the lesson it taught.

In many places the bells in the churches were tolled and the flags lowered to half-mast, as a sign of mourning; but when the day arrived on which the stamps were to be used as ordered by King George, not one of them could be found. They

“Liberty, Pro
red flag floats
elm, called “



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The British Flag
(The Red Ensign).



Flag used chiefly by
New England Colonies
before the Revolution.



Flag of 1776
Used by Washington at Cambridge.



Flag used by New York
Merchant Ships before the Revolution.



The Pine Tree Flag
(Used in the American Navy early
in the Revolution.)

prime minister of England, who naturally was looked upon as the valued friend of the colonies. The king, however, remained sullen and stubborn, and so dissatisfied that many saw more serious trouble near at hand.

The liberty poles were not always flagstuffs. Many of them held only a liberty cap, such as the ancient Romans used to give their slaves when they set them at liberty, so that all might see they were freemen. Now, since the king insisted that he had never tried to make slaves of the Americans, he considered the liberty poles insulting to him, and his soldiers never failed to cut them down whenever they got the chance.

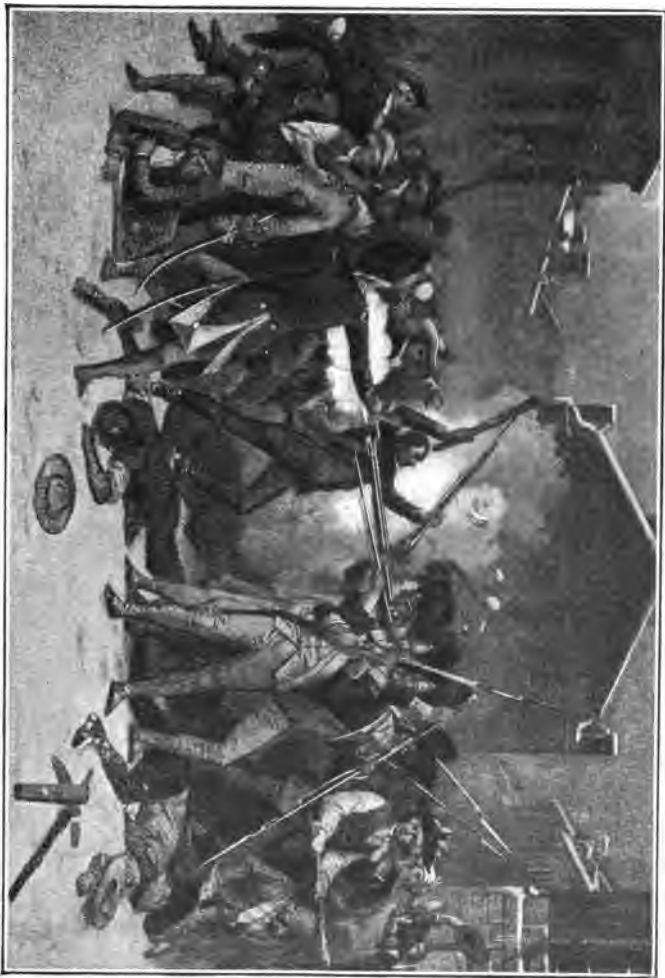
There was more wrangling over liberty poles in New York than anywhere else. A large number of patriots formed a secret society, which they called the "Sons of Liberty." Its members set up a large pole and bound it around with strong iron bands for half the distance from the ground to the top. This was to prevent the British soldiers from cutting it down.

It was a large pole, for it took six powerful horses to drag it from the shipyard to Broadway and Warren Street. An immense crowd accom-

panied it, and you may be sure that they cheered and were in high spirits. When they reached the place where the pole was to be set up, they found a line of soldiers with loaded muskets awaiting them. There were angry words, threats, and quarreling, and more than once it looked as if blood would be shed. But the crowd grew to so great a size that the soldiers decided to let the men alone, and the liberty pole was raised in place. There it stood until the British took possession of the city some years later.

It was about this time that Massachusetts placed the motto "Union and Liberty" on her flag, and New York adopted for her vessels the one used by the first Dutch settlers, which showed a beaver—that animal, because of its valuable fur, being what the thrifty Dutch prized more than anything else.

A period of quiet followed this turmoil, and the people of New York showed their kindly feelings toward King George III. by erecting a statue of him in Bowling Green. Before that they had set up one of William Pitt in Wall Street. A few years later, when the Revolution opened, the leaden statue of King George was



The Boston Massacre.

pulled down and melted into bullets that were used by the patriots against the enemies of their country.

If King George III. had been wise, he never would have quarreled with his American colonies. England now treats all her colonies with kindness and wisdom, and they are loyal to her; but George III. was insane at times, he was stubborn, and he made up his mind that the rebels on this side of the ocean should be compelled to obey his laws, no matter how harsh or unjust they thought them to be. He had repealed the Stamp Act, but he gave the Americans to understand that he did not abandon the right to tax them, even though they were not permitted to take any part in framing the laws under which they lived.

Now the only way to make the Americans obey these laws was to send over enough soldiers to show them the folly of resisting the authority of England. Troops were quartered in Boston, where the people became so angry that numerous affrays took place between them and the troops. On March 5, 1770, there was a fight, in which several citizens were killed and a number wounded. This incident, which had so much to do with



The Boston Tea Party.

kindling the fires of the Revolution, is known in history as the Boston Massacre.

By and by, England placed a tax upon tea, just to teach the Americans that they could not escape taxation. The tax was very light, the cost of the tea being really less than the people in England had to pay for it without any tax. But the Americans were contending for a principle, and would not use the tea. In New York and Philadelphia, the people did not allow the vessels to land their cargoes, and in Charleston, South Carolina, as soon as the tea was placed on the dock, it was carried off and stored in cellars so damp that it soon became moldy and spoiled. In Boston, on the night of December 16, 1773, a party of Americans, painted and disguised as Indians, boarded the three vessels lying in the harbor, and emptied all the tea into the water. Then they slipped away to their homes, thus breaking up the famous Boston Tea Party, of which I am sure you have heard.

The Americans soon saw that they would never be able to get their rights from England without fighting for them. When news of the Boston Tea Party was carried across the ocean the anger

of England was roused, and a strong military force was sent to Boston to bring the rebels to terms. This only added to the bad feeling, and there were many fights between the soldiers and the citizens.

IV.

THE REVOLUTION.



I AM sorry to say that there were many Tories in the American colonies. They were men born in this country who did all they could to help the oppressors from England. In some instances the Tories joined the Indians on the frontiers, and were as ferocious as the red warriors themselves.

One night a Tory went to General Gage, the British commander in Boston, and told him that if he would have a force ready at midnight, he would show him how he could do two very clever things: one was to capture Samuel Adams, the leading "rebel" in Massachusetts, and often called the "Father of the Revolution," and his friend, John Hancock; the other was to seize all the arms and ammunition stored in Concord, a village a few miles out from Boston.

But the New Englanders were too wide-awake to be caught napping. Of course they knew every foot of the country, and their sharp-eyed spies were on the watch. It did not take them long



Samuel Adams.

to find out the scheme on foot. As two of them separated, one said in substance to the other:

“ ‘If the British march
By land or sea from the town to-night,
Hang a lantern aloft in the belfry-arch
Of the North Church tower as a signal light—
One, if by land, and two, if by sea ;
And I on the opposite shore will be,
Ready to ride and spread the alarm
Through every Middlesex village and farm,
For the country-folk to be up and to arm.’ ”

Two lights gleamed from the belfry of the Old North Church, as a signal that the British troops had departed by water. Instantly several riders galloped away at headlong speed in the darkness. The story of the famous ride of Paul Revere, who sped toward Lexington, reining up for an instant in front of the house of some patriot farmer and shouting his warning, then away again like a whirlwind, is one of the most thrilling incidents of the Revolution.

So it was that when the British regulars reached Lexington in the gray dusk of early morning on April 19, 1775, they found a band of resolute patriots, with their flintlocks, awaiting them on the village green. They refused to disperse when ordered, saying they were on their own ground where they had a right to be. A shot was heard, though it is not known whether it was from an American or "Redcoat," and then the British fired the "volley heard round the world," which stretched sixteen men killed or wounded on the ground. The Americans replied and killed a soldier, but they were greatly outnumbered, and retreated, while the British pressed on to Concord, following in the path of Paul Revere, who had



Battle of Lexington.

aroused the people that were hurrying from all directions and firing their guns as soon as they came within range of the soldiers.

Among the patriots were hundreds who called



Where the First Shot was Fired at Lexington.

themselves "minute men," which meant that they were ready at a minute's notice to march to the defense of their homes. They proved worthy of their name. One of them was John Page, who had served in the French and Indian War. When he was called from his sleep by the shouted words

of Paul Revere, he sprang up and seized a fine cavalry standard, which he had served under years before, and carried it with him as he dashed off to join his countrymen. It was, therefore, the first flag used by the Americans in the Revolution. It is carefully preserved at Bedford, Massachusetts, and if you visit that town, the proud people will be glad to show it to you. It is about two feet square and made of beautiful red silk, showing a steel-gloved hand such as those of the knights of olden times. The hand reaches out of a cloud and grasps a sword. Three silver balls in the form of a triangle are inclosed by a scroll which displays the motto, "Vince aut morire," meaning "Conquer or Die." This memorable flag is supposed to have been brought from England in 1660, which was before King Philip's War, and was made for the Three-County Troop of Massachusetts, whose members came from the counties of Essex, Suffolk, and Middlesex.

After the affray at Lexington, the British, as I have already told you, marched on to Concord, following in the track of Paul Revere, who had summoned the minute men to arms. The regulars left a guard at the bridge across the Concord

River, and then began to destroy the cannon and powder collected by the patriots. While thus engaged, the firing at the bridge showed that the Americans had attacked the guard stationed there. The British ran to their aid, and saw so many angry and excited men converging from all directions, that they began to retreat toward Lexington.

By this time, the whole country was in arms. The Americans fired from behind houses, barns, fences, trees, and everything that offered the least protection. So deadly was the fire poured in upon the invaders that they began to run for their lives, and all would have been shot down had they not been met by reinforcements, who helped them to get back to Charlestown.

Thousands of patriots gathered near Boston, where General Gage and his British army were shut in by them. Meanwhile, the Second Continental Congress was sitting in Philadelphia, and in May it was asked by Massachusetts to accept the men gathered about Boston as a Continental Army. Seeing that the war had actually begun, Congress did as requested, and appointed George Washington Commander-in-chief. He set out at

once for Boston, and on reaching New York learned that a great battle had been fought near Bunker Hill.

A little way north of Boston, directly behind



Battle of Bunker Hill.

Charlestown, were two small hills. The one nearer the American army was Bunker Hill, while just beyond and closer to Boston was Breed's Hill. Learning that the British meant to fortify

these two hills, the Americans sent a force under Colonel Prescott on a warm night in June to take possession of Bunker Hill. Prescott thought Breed's Hill better suited for his purpose, and he hurriedly threw up a large earthwork. In the morning when the British saw what had been done, they opened fire from their ships; but the Americans toiled on as if nothing was the matter, until they had finished a long trench and bank to protect themselves in the battle that they knew must soon open.

It was about the middle of the afternoon of June 17th, that the British, who had come over from Boston, formed in regular line at the bottom of Breed's Hill and marched steadily toward the top. The Americans impatiently awaited them. They had no powder to spare, and General Putnam and Colonel Prescott, who were in command, warned them not to waste any. "Let not a shot be fired," said Prescott, "till you can see the whites of their eyes."

The command was obeyed. Not until the British were within a hundred feet did the order ring out, "*Fire!*" and then a volley was poured into the ranks of the enemy, so destructive that they

broke and ran to the bottom of the hill. But the British were brave and under fine discipline. They quickly rallied and again marched up the hill with beautiful precision and even step. A second time the fearful fire of the patriots sent them skurrying to the bottom ; but, as before, they rallied, and under their officers a third time moved up the slope, with as firm a step as if on parade.

By this time the Americans had used up all their powder. As the British swarmed over the intrenchment, they clubbed their muskets and furiously used them, while many seized stones and hurled them at the British who could not be stopped. All that remained for the patriots was to retreat, and they did so, fighting as they fell back.

Thus you will note that the first important battle of the Revolution was a victory for the British, but in one sense it was a defeat for them and a triumph for the Americans. It gave them needed confidence, and they were no longer afraid to fight the British regulars, who were among the best soldiers in the world. It intensified the spirit of liberty and resistance to tyranny, which ran through the colonies like wildfire.

As for England, she realized for the first time the tremendous task she had undertaken. Although victor at Bunker Hill, the cost to her was fearful. It was said that two more such victories would leave her without an army in America. When the news reached Washington, he anxiously asked how the Americans had conducted themselves. "None could have fought more bravely," was the reply. "Then," said he, with great satisfaction, "the liberties of our country are safe."

It would be interesting to know about the flags used by the Americans at Bunker Hill, as the battle is called, despite the fact that it was fought on Breed's Hill. It is said that General Gage himself was the first to detect the flag flying above our intrenchments, but, though he scrutinized it closely through his glass, he was unable to make out the words on it. Then a Whig prisoner, who must have seen the flag before, offered to read them without the aid of a glass. "They are 'Come if you Dare,'" said he, no doubt with great satisfaction.

One of the most lamented patriots who fell at Bunker Hill was Dr. Joseph Warren. It is said of him that while striving to rally his men, he

shouted the mottoes on their banners as battle cries, "An Appeal to Heaven," and "Qui transulit sustinet," meaning, "God, who transplanted us hither, will support us." It is also said that General Putnam displayed a crimson flag, with the favorite motto, "An Appeal to Heaven." This motto probably had its origin in the closing paragraph of the Address of the Provincial Congress of Massachusetts to their Brethren in Great Britain, "Appealing to heaven for the justice of our cause, we determine to die or be free."

In the painting of the Battle of Bunker Hill, in the rotunda of the capitol at Washington, the flag is the old colonial banner of St. George, with the pine tree. The best testimony makes this the correct one.

Before proceeding with a brief history of the leading events of the Revolution on land, let us give a short account of the flags used by the American navy, for, despite the stupendous power of Great Britain, the Americans did not hesitate to attack her on the ocean. You know it will never do for any vessel to leave port without a flag, for if she does she may be fired upon as a pirate. The two swift sailing vessels which the Americans

sent out in the autumn of 1775 each bore a flag that was suggested by General Washington. He said: "The pine tree is already well known as a colonial emblem. Let us use that; only I would



The Elm at Cambridge, where Washington Took Command.

advise that we transplant the tree in the middle of the flag and so give it room to grow. The cross of St. George, I think, we can very well do without." It followed, therefore, that when our tiny navy ventured to leave shore, it bore aloft a spreading pine banner.

A much more famous naval flag of those early days was one with a yellow ground, containing the device of a rattlesnake, with its head high, its rattles vibrating, and the defiant warning, "Don't tread on me." The soldiers liked the device so well that they often painted it on their drums.

Washington reached Cambridge on Sunday, July 2, 1775, and on the following day, under the historic elm, assumed command of the American army. There was sore need of him, for, although the patriots gathered there were eager and brave, they were without discipline, and most of them knew nothing of the simplest military tactics. They came and went as they chose, and were greatly in need of supplies and a strong guiding hand, such as Washington's. He saw the true situation, and knew, as a military leader of genius, that it would be folly to attempt anything decisive until the patriots were molded into form. So, as the weeks and months went by, he and his trained officers gave their energies to this needed work.

And, now that we have fairly entered upon the great struggle of the American colonies for lib-

erty, it will be well to sum up the leading events of the Revolution, from the battle of Bunker Hill to the "last scene of all."

1776.

General Washington pressed the siege of Boston vigorously, and on the 17th of March, General Howe, who had succeeded General Gage in command of the British troops, saw that he would have to leave the city or be destroyed by the bombardment of the Americans. So he and his soldiers went on board their ships and sailed away to Halifax, in Nova Scotia. In the following June, a strong British fleet attacked the city of Charleston, South Carolina, but the patriots made so gallant a defense that the enemy was forced to withdraw.

Philadelphia, as you have been told, was the most important city in the colonies, and the American Congress was sitting in the old Independence Hall. On the immortal Fourth of July, they signed the Declaration of Independence, which we are so fond of celebrating, and which can never be forgotten by the boys and girls and men and women of the United States. Everybody was



Signing the Declaration of Independence.

happy, and sure that our country would soon be independent.

But it was to be a hard struggle, and the time came when a good many thought we must fail. Washington had marched with his army to New York, after driving the British out of Boston, for he knew that city was in danger. A large part of his army was attacked on Long Island, in the month of August, 1776, by a much greater force of British, and not only defeated, but many were taken prisoners. The ragged patriots retreated up the river to White Plains, where they were again defeated, and then, to escape capture, Washington, late in the autumn, crossed the river and hurried toward Philadelphia, which he believed the enemy intended to attack. By the time he reached Trenton, it was in the depth of winter, and many of the soldiers were barefooted, so that they left bloody footprints in the snow. They were half starved, and shivering with the intense cold, but they clung to their beloved commander, and crossed the Delaware into Pennsylvania, first seizing all the boats for a long distance up and down the river, on the Jersey side, so that the British army could not follow them.

On Christmas night, Washington and 2,500 of his best men and officers crossed the Delaware, eight miles above Trenton, and, marching through the snow and sleet, reached the town just as day was breaking. The Hessian force was surprised, its commander killed, and nearly all of the enemy taken prisoners. Lord Cornwallis was at Princeton, ten miles away, with a much larger army, and he hurried down to Trenton with his troops, certain that he would bag Washington and all his ragged patriots.

1777.

But Washington gave him the slip, and, hurrying around Cornwallis, attacked and defeated the force which he had left at Princeton, on January 3d, and before the baffled commander could get back, Washington was at Morristown, where he went into winter quarters and remained until the following June.

The most dangerous campaign against our country was that of General Burgoyne, who arranged to invade New York from Canada with a powerful army, which included many Indians. You can see that if he succeeded in doing this, he would

split apart the New England and the Middle States, and we should lose our independence, for we could never rally from such an overwhelming calamity.

But if the patriots were not strong enough to defeat the invaders in open battle, they worried them almost to death. They destroyed bridges in front of them, cut off their supplies, and more than once defeated and captured parties sent out by Burgoyne. Recruits kept flocking to General Gates, the American commander, while many of the Indians left the British, who soon found themselves in danger of starvation. By and by, the Americans felt strong enough to attack them, and seeing there was no hope left, Burgoyne surrendered his army at Saratoga on the 17th of October. This was a severe blow to England, and gave France the excuse for which she was waiting to come to the help of the Americans. She made a treaty with the United States, and sent over men to aid us in our struggle for liberty; but we did not gain much benefit from the friendship of France until near the close of the war.

Howe left New York with his army on the fleet of his brother, Admiral Howe, and sailing up Ches-

apeake Bay, landed and marched overland to Philadelphia, which fell into his hands on the 26th of September. Washington was expecting such a movement, and hastened down from Morristown, but his army was so much smaller than that of the enemy that he could not save the city. He made a gallant fight a week later at Germantown, and nearly succeeded in driving out the British, but a dense fog threw matters into confusion, and he had to withdraw. He spent the winter at Valley Forge, a few miles away, where he and all his men shivered with cold in their rags, and almost starved to death.

1778.

England was afraid that the French fleet, which was preparing to cross the Atlantic, would sail up the Delaware and catch the British army. So it was ordered to leave the city and march to New York, where it would be safe. Washington was on the alert, and chased them to Monmouth Court House, a little village which is now the prosperous town of Freehold, New Jersey. There the British army was attacked and defeated on June 28th, which was one of the hottest days of the year.

They slipped away during the night and hurried to the seashore, where the waiting ships took the troops on board and hurried them to New York.

I wish you to notice how the Revolution, which opened in Boston, kept moving southward. We hear of no more important events in New England, but there were plenty of them in the Middle States. By and by you will note that they shifted still farther south, till the end was reached in Virginia.

The British met with so little success in the Northern and Middle States that they turned their efforts to the South. Savannah was captured in the latter part of the year, and the patriots there were so few in number that they could make little or no headway against the invaders.

1779.

The cause of American independence did not make much progress the year of 1779. Washington, after defeating the British at Monmouth Court House, returned to his old camp at White Plains, New York, where he spent the winter, which was one of the coldest ever known in this country. There were many raids back and forth,

but little was done by either side. The Indians committed so many cruelties that Washington sent General Sullivan with a strong force against the Iroquois, or Six Nations, whose homes were in Central New York. Sullivan killed many of them, and destroyed forty of their villages. The blow was a severe one, but it was deserved. It was during this year that Paul Jones won his famous naval battle, of which I shall have more to tell you in the pages that follow.

1780.

The year opened in gloom for the patriots. It seemed as if every one except Washington was in despair, and ready to stop fighting. But he never lost faith in the sacred cause for which he was ready at all times to give his life. In the month of May, General Clinton, the British commander, captured Charleston, together with the American army of about five thousand men. Georgia was conquered by the enemy, who placed their own governor at the head of affairs. About all the patriots could do was to fight in little squads, attacking the enemy whenever there was a chance to do them any injury. Washington was very anxious, and

was greatly relieved when he learned that the Americans had gained an important victory on the 7th of October, over the British at King's Mountain, on the border line between North and South Carolina. Then he sent Nathanael Greene, his best general, to the South, and straightway matters improved and continued to improve to the end of the war.

1781.

The dashing American, Colonel Morgan, was attacked on the morning of January 17th, at Cowpens, by Colonel Tarleton, the best British cavalry officer in this country. Tarleton suffered a decisive defeat, losing many killed and wounded, besides the six hundred prisoners taken by the Americans. Cornwallis manœuvered for weeks against Greene, who outwitted him all the time. He attacked the British at Eutaw Springs, on September 8th, but it was a drawn battle, with the greater advantage, however, on the side of the patriots. The British fell back, and Greene pursued them almost to Charleston. No more important fighting took place in that section.

In May, Washington and Rochambeau (ro-

shong-bo'), the French commander, earnestly considered the plan of the campaign. Clinton, the British commander in New York, believed they intended to attack him, and he gave all his energies to preparations for defense. But Washington marched rapidly southward with his army, passing through Philadelphia to the ringing of bells and the shouts of the delighted people. Meanwhile, the French fleet carried their soldiers up Chesapeake Bay, and the allies came together and took position on the 28th of September, opposite Yorktown, Virginia, where Cornwallis, with the principal British army, had intrenched himself. He had been promised aid by Clinton in New York, but it never came. He held out bravely and did all that man could do to save himself, but he was surrounded on all sides, the guns along his front were dismounted, and all his shells used up. Not until the last spark of hope died out did he surrender to Washington, October 19th.

This was the last battle of the Revolution. England saw at last that she could not conquer the American colonies, and she was ready to acknowledge their independence. The final treaty was signed September 3, 1783, and the United

States of America took their place among the nations of the earth.

And now let us turn back for a time and learn something about our beloved flag during those stirring days that "tried men's souls."

V.

EVOLUTION OF OUR NATIONAL FLAG.



OUR national flag was an evolution or gradual growth, and many patterns were made before it assumed its present beautiful form. The first national banner was raised over Washington's headquarters at Cambridge on January 2, 1776. It had thirteen red and white stripes, as it has to-day, but in place of the stars was displayed the "Union Jack," or "king's colors."

Now, when fighting began between England and her American colonies, the latter were not thinking so much of independence as they were of compelling the king of England to give them the rights to which they were entitled. The meaning of this new flag, therefore, was that while

the thirteen colonies were united in their demand for redress against the oppressive laws of the mother country, they still acknowledged King George as their rightful sovereign. Had he heeded the lesson, there would have been no



Craigie House.

Revolution, though sooner or later the separation between the colonies and England must have taken place, but in all probability it would have been peaceful.

The old Craigie House at Cambridge, where the new flag was first unfurled, afterward became

the home of the poet Longfellow, and in the room which Washington had once made his headquarters, the gifted poet wrote these lines :

“ And at the masthead,
White, blue and red,
A flag unfurls the stripes and stars.
Ah ! When the wanderer, lonely, friendless,
In foreign harbors shall behold
That flag unrolled,
’Twill be as a friendly hand
Stretched out from his native land,
Filling his heart with memories sweet and endless.”

The British made a curious mistake when they first caught sight of this banner from Charleston Heights. They had just sent a copy of King George’s speech to Washington, and thought the display of the flag meant that the Continentals were ready to surrender. This error, however, did not last long, for some hours later a messenger arrived in the British camp with news that the Americans had burned the king’s speech.

I have told you that despite the mighty navy with which Great Britain swept the seas, the Americans determined to attack her on the water. In one respect the meager naval force of the patriots was an advantage to them. Their ships

were so few in number that the British men-of-war had to make diligent search to find them, and often had hard work to discover the saucy little



John Paul Jones.

cruisers, while the latter could not go anywhere without catching sight of the bulky ships of the enemy. True, we had only an insignificant navy, but such as it was, Captain Esek Hopkins was

made commander of it. On a brisk, frosty morning in January, 1776, he stepped into his barge, at the foot of Walnut Street, Philadelphia, greeted by the cheers of the crowd gathered near and a salute from the artillery. The river was full of floating ice, through which he was rowed to his flagship *Alfred*. As he stepped upon the deck, Captain Dudley Saltonstall gave the signal, and First Lieutenant John Paul Jones ran up the new emblem, together with a yellow silk flag which bore the device of the pine tree and rattlesnake, and the motto, "Don't tread on me."

Captain Isaiah Robinson, of the *Andria Dovia*, claimed that it was under him the Continental flag received its first salute. It was in the latter part of the year 1776, while engaged in transporting arms and ammunition from the West Indies to the United States, that the Dutch governor of St. Eustatius saluted the flag at the mast-head of his vessel. "I was a very proud man on that day," said the captain, "and gave my men a good dinner in honor of the event."

Captain William McNail, commander of the *General Mifflin*, received the second salute at Brest, in August, 1777. Lord Sturmont, the

English ambassador, turned purple in the face with anger over the honor paid to the "rebel banner"; but France, who was very friendly to us from the first, did not care, and was doubtless pleased to see the indignation of the ambassador, who could not help himself.

The idea of remaining loyal to England and compelling her to repeal her oppressive laws, soon left the minds of the Americans, who saw that there was only one way of gaining what they craved, and that was, to free themselves from the British yoke. So, as you remember, the Declaration of Independence was drawn up and then signed on the Fourth of July, 1776, though all the signatures were not attached until some weeks later, and from that time forward the struggle was for independence. Only four days after the signing of this immortal declaration, the king's arms were torn from the walls of Independence Hall, in Philadelphia, where Congress was in session.

One of our illustrations shows an early colonial flag, red in color, with the word "Liberty" in white. This seems to have been somewhat of an imitation of a regular British red ensign of that date (1775-77)—which contained the

crosses of St. George and St. Andrew, as now. At the battle of Long Island, a company of fifty Americans were cut off from their countrymen and compelled to surrender to Colonel Rall, who was killed four months later at Trenton. The flag carried by them was of red damask, with the motto in white, "LIBERTY." Illustrations of somewhat similar flags give the motto "Liberty or Death."

On June 14, 1777, the king's colors disappeared forever from the American emblem, for on that memorable day Congress resolved that the flag of the thirteen United States should be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white, with the Union consisting of thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation. You will recognize this date as "Flag Day," which, I am glad to say, is fast growing in favor among all our people. Before this the stripes were not always red and white, but often of different colors.

We do not know when or where our national banner was first flung to the breeze, and more than one artist has added to the uncertainty. I suppose you have noticed the picture of the flag in the painting which shows Washington crossing the

Delaware. Now this is wrong, for, as you know, Washington crossed that icy stream on Christmas night, 1776, which was some six months before the first Star Spangled Banner was made. The same mistake has been repeated in other pictures.

The first of this pattern of which we have an account was hoisted over the captured British standards at Fort Stanwix, which stood on the present site of Rome, New York. It was only two months after Congress had adopted the new form. As you may suppose, the Americans were not supplied with silk or bunting, which we use in making our flags, but they were too ingenious to be hindered by a trifle like that. The soldiers' shirts furnished the white stripes, while pieces of flannel supplied the red ones. It is said that this flannel came from the petticoat of one of the soldiers' wives. The cloak of Captain Abraham Swartout of Poughkeepsie furnished the blue ground for the stars, which were cut from the same material that provided the white stripes. Of course this flag was clumsy in appearance, but what a treasure it would be to-day, if it had only been preserved !

Eight days after Congress ordered the Stars and

Stripes to be used in the army, the battle of Brandywine was fought, on September 11, 1777. It was in that battle, therefore, that the first Star Spangled Banner was used. Thenceforward, it has served down to the present day.

Paul Jones, one of the most daring naval officers who ever lived, received the first official salute to the Stars and Stripes. He was only thirty years old when appointed to the command of the *Ranger*. Some patriotic ladies in Philadelphia made a beautiful flag and presented it to him. He was so pleased that, before he hoisted it over his ship, he was rowed up and down the harbor in a small boat, while he stood erect and waved the flag slowly back and forth while the multitude cheered.

Admiral Charles Stewart, who was born in Philadelphia in 1778, and lived past the age of ninety, told me that one of his friends who saw this scene described it to him just as I have told it. Admiral Stewart clearly remembered seeing Paul Jones some years later, before he sailed to enter the service of Russia.

Captain Jones's first duty was to escort a number of merchantmen to France. As soon as he sighted the French coast, the cunning fellow began plan-

ning to secure the coveted salute for his flag. Suppose we let him tell his own story:

"I am happy to have it in my power to congratulate you on my having seen the American flag for the first time recognized in the fullest and completest manner by the flag of France. I was off this bay on the 13th inst., and sent my boat in the next day to know if the Admiral would return my salute. He answered that he would return to me as the senior American continental officer in Europe, the same salute he was authorized to return to an admiral of Holland or any other republic, which was four guns less than the salute given. I hesitated at this for I demanded gun for gun. Therefore, I anchored in the entrance to the bay at some distance from the French fleet, but after a very particular inquiry on the 14th, finding he really told me the truth, I was induced to accept his offer, the more as it was an acknowledgment of American independence. The wind being contrary and blowing hard, it was after sunset before the *Ranger* was near enough to salute *Le Motte Piquet*, with thirteen guns which he returned with nine. However, to put the matter beyond a doubt, I did not suffer the *Independence* to salute until the next morning, when I sent word to the Admiral that I would sail through the fleet and would salute him in open day. He was exceedingly pleasant and returned the compliment also with nine guns."

It was some time later that Jones was given command of a small squadron presented to the United States by our French friends. He transferred the banner which he had u



Ranger to his flagship the *Bon Homme Richard* (bo-nom' re-shar'). This vessel was an old Indian, and was accompanied by two consorts, the *Alliance* and the *Pallas*. Off Scarborough, Jones sighted the homeward-bound English fleet of merchantmen, under the escort of the frigates *Countess of Scarborough* and the *Serapis* (se-rä'-pis). The former carried twenty-two guns and the latter fifty, while Jones had forty-four guns and three hundred and seventy-five men; but more than half of them were prisoners of war.

That which followed was one of the most terrific sea fights in history, and was fought by moonlight in the month of September, 1779. It had hardly opened, when two of the guns on the lower deck of the *Bon Homme Richard* exploded, killing several men. The others ran to the main deck above, and the guns left behind them were used no more during the fight.

Jones strove to close in with the *Serapis*, but when he found he could not bring his guns to bear, he fell away again. All this time the opponents were firing into each other, and both did frightful damage. Amid the turmoil and smoke, the English captain shouted to Jones, "Have you

struck?" "I haven't begun to fight!" was the reply of the hero.

A few minutes later the *Serapis* swung round, and her jib-boom caught in the mizzen rigging of the *Richard*; observing which, Jones leaped forward and lashed the boom to the mast, but the lurching of the vessels broke the hold. One of the enemy's anchors, however, caught the quarter of the *Richard* and held. The *Serapis* attempted to fire from the starboard side, but the *Richard* rubbed so close that she could not open her ports. She therefore fired with her ports closed, blowing away her own port-lids. Her shots pierced the lower deck, where, however, there were no Americans, and the main deck of the *Richard* was so high that none of the crew was injured, though the hull was greatly damaged. In the cases of both ships, many cannonballs passed clear through the hulls and splashed into the water hundreds of yards away.

Nothing could exceed the fierceness of the fight, which lasted for two hours, the muzzles of the guns scraping each other and the men fighting hand to hand with musket, pike, and cutlass. Often they thrust their ramrods into the portholes of the opposing ship. The rotten *Richard* was

mangled and pierced like a sieve and soon became unmanageable, while only three of her guns could be used. Both vessels repeatedly caught fire, and to add to the awful peril of the *Richard*, the *Alliance*, her consort, began firing into her. This, as it was afterward proved, was due to the insane frenzy of her French captain, who was exasperated at the thought of all the glory of the victory going to the American. He would launch one broadside at the *Richard* and then hurl the next at the Englishman, alternating between the two. Leaving him to be settled with afterward, Jones kept up his unequal battle with the enemy, who fought as bravely as himself.

At this critical juncture an American sailor perched in the rigging of the *Richard* dropped a hand-grenade into the hatchway of the *Serapis*. The powder boys had left a row of eighteen-pound cartridges stretched along the whole length of the ship, and the burning missile fell into the heap. The frightful explosion that followed killed twenty sailors and wounded forty others.

The English captain rushed at the head of a party of boarders for the deck of the *Richard*, but was met by Jones with a pike, at the head of

his own men and driven back. It was the explosion caused by the hand-grenade, however, which decided the battle, and a few minutes later the English captain struck his colors. In the fearful confusion half the crews on the respective ships believed it was the *Richard* that had surrendered, but the English captain himself hauled down his own colors.

When day broke the wallowing and riddled *Richard* was sinking, and she went down so quickly that some of her men were drowned before they could be removed to the *Serapis*. In this greatest naval battle of the Revolution, four-fifths of the Americans were killed or wounded, and the glory of Paul Jones's victory will never fade.

At one period in this famous fight, the flag of the *Richard* was shot away and fell into the sea. Before it could sink, one of the sailors, James Bayard Stafford, leaped overboard, seized it, and climbed back. He was almost immediately struck down by a British officer, whose sword cut through his shoulder, completely severing the bone. Lieutenant Stafford, as he afterward became, recovered from the dreadful wound, and did valiant service throughout the Revolution. He removed to the

city of Trenton, after the war, where he lived until well beyond the age of ninety. There are many old citizens who still remember his well-known figure and gentle face. One day, when walking along the street, he stepped into an excavation, and fell so violently that the shoulder blade, which had been split in battle, was wrenched apart. On account of his great age the bone refused to knit, and he wore a bandage tied around his upper arm to keep it in place. The pain was so torturing that his daughter, Sarah Smith Stafford, told me her father frequently walked the floor all night without being able to obtain a minute's sleep. He suffered several years before death came to his relief.

At the close of the Revolution, the Marine Committee presented the flag of the *Richard* to Lieutenant Stafford as an acknowledgment of his heroic deed. His daughter preserved it with the greatest care and pride. As it has often been exhibited at patriotic fairs and gatherings, it is possible you may have seen it. I have examined it many times, and was struck by the fact that it contains only twelve stripes. Miss Stafford's explanation to me was that it originally had thirteen,



An early
Colonial Flag.



Rattlesnake Flag used early
during the Revolution.



The American Flag adopted June, 1777.



The Bunker Hill Flag.



The Flag of 1814.
Fifteen Stars and Fifteen Stripes.

but the lower portion was so mutilated in the great sea fight that it was cut off to preserve its comeliness.

The ship *Bedford* of Nantucket is believed to have been the first ship to hoist the free American colors in British waters. A gentleman named Elkanah Watson says that a few days before this, he made arrangements at dinner with the Boston artist, John Singleton Copley, then in London, to have his portrait painted. It was agreed that the background should represent a ship bearing to America the news of the acknowledgment of independence, "the rising sun gilding the Stars and Stripes of the new-born nation streaming from the gaff." The artist thought it unwise to depict the flag, because the nobility and members of the royal family often visited his studio, and he feared that a sight of it would give them offense.

On the 5th of December, 1782, Mr. Watson and the artist visited the House of Lords, where they listened to the speech of the king, in which he recognized the United States as one of the nations of the earth. Returning from Parliament, they met several friends, whom Mr. Copley invited to visit his studio. "There and then, with

a bold hand, master touch, and American heart, he attached to the ship the Stars and Stripes. Thus while the words of acknowledgment were warm from the king's lips, the late rebel but henceforth free colors were displayed in his own kingdom a few rods from the royal palace."

The British troops sailed from the city of New York on the 25th of November, 1783, and ever since then the metropolis of our country has celebrated "Evacuation day," which, you will agree, was a memorable one in our history. You can imagine the rejoicing with which our forefathers looked upon the march of the defeated invaders, who for more than seven years had vainly tried to rob them of their liberty. While the troops were marching to Whitehall, Mr. Day, who kept a tavern in Murray Street, hoisted an American flag. The sight of the triumphant banner floating in the clear sunlight so angered a British officer that he ordered Mr. Day to pull it down. He sturdily refused, whereupon one Marshall Cunningham rushed to the door intending to tear it down himself. Just as he was about to enter the building, Mrs. Day, a powerful woman, met him with a broomstick in her hands, with which she belabored him

so vigorously that he retreated in confusion, amid the jeers and laughter of the spectators. Cunningham wore a wig, and it is said that the blows of the broom fell so fast that powder flew in a cloud of dust above his battered pate.

When the sullen British reached the Battery at the lower end of the town, they nailed the English colors to a flagstaff and smeared the pole with grease. A sailor standing on the wharf made three attempts to climb the pole, but after getting up a little way, down he slid again. It did not help his temper to hear the Redcoats laugh and taunt him over his failure. He saw that it was out of the power of the most skillful climber to make his way up the slippery pole, and he slunk off among the crowd. While the soldiers were still making merry over his defeat he came back with a hammer, a bundle of flat bits of wood, and a pocket full of nails. Then the spectators stopped laughing and wonderingly watched him. Nailing the pieces of wood against the pole, one above the other, he slowly worked his way upward until he reached the flag, when he tore it down, and that was the last hostile British flag that ever waved in the greatest city of America.

It would take many volumes to tell all the interesting incidents connected with our flag during the long struggle for independence. We can never forget the sufferings of our forefathers, who fought without pay, starved, shivered with cold in the winter, and panted throughout the fervid heat of summer; thousands of them were in rags, many left the bloody traces of their bare feet on the frozen roads, and the great Washington himself shared their miseries and sufferings. We can never pay the debt we owe to those brave patriots, and we shall always hold their memory in loving reverence.

On June 28, 1776, the British fleet made a savage attack on the forts which defended Charleston. On the western tower of Fort Sullivan, the crescent flag of South Carolina had been placed by Colonel Moultrie, the commandant. In the midst of the bombardment, a shot splintered the staff, which fell outside the wall on the beach. Sergeant William Jasper, without a moment's hesitation, leaped the wall, ran the whole length of the fort, in plain sight of the British fleet, with the shot flying all around him, caught up the fallen banner, coolly replaced it, and then dropped down



Sergeant Jasper at Fort Moutrie.

among his comrades unharmed. The deed was so heroic that, after the battle, he was offered the rank of lieutenant, but thinking himself unfitted, he modestly declined the promotion. Some years later, when the Americans made a disastrous attempt to recapture Savannah from the British, Sergeant Jasper was among those killed.

Another hero who fell on that sad day was Pulaski, who came from Poland to fight for our independence, in 1777, when he was under thirty years of age. He displayed such skill and bravery at Brandywine and Germantown that he was made brigadier-general and placed in command of the famous "Pulaski's Legion," which was composed of English deserters, prisoners of war, who had renounced their allegiance, and foreigners. At Savannah, he commanded the French and American cavalry, and fought with the fury of a tiger until he fell mortally wounded.

The Moravian Sisters of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, embroidered the banner of Count Pulaski for him, and the poet Longfellow has told for us the following beautiful story :

When the dying flame of day
Through the chancel shot its ray,

Far the glimmering tapers sped
Faint light on the cowlèd head ;
And the censer burning swung,
Where, before the altar, hung
The crimson banner, that with prayer
Had been consecrated there.

And the nun's sweet hymn was heard the while
Sung low, in the dim, mysterious aisle.

“ Take thy banner ! may it wave
Proudly o'er the good and brave ;
When the battle's distant wail
Breaks the Sabbath of our vale
When the clarion's music thrills
To the hearts of these lone hills,
When the spear in conflict shakes,
And the strong lance shivering breaks.

“ Take thy banner and beneath
The war-cloud's encircling wreath
Guard it—till our homes are free,
Guard it—God will prosper thee !
In the dark and trying hour,
In the breaking forth of power,
In the rush of steeds and men,
His right hand will shield thee then.

“ Take thy banner. But when night
Closes round the ghastly fight,
If the vanquished warrior bow,
Spare him—by our holy vow ;
By our prayers and by our tears,
By the mercy that endears,
Spare him ! he our love hath shared !
Spare him, as thou would'st be spared !

Take thy banner ! and if e'er
Thou should'st press a soldier's bier,
And the muffled drum should beat
To the tread of mournful feet—
Then this crimson flag shall be
Martial cloak and shroud for thee."

The warrior took that banner proud
And it was his martial cloak and shroud.

VI.

THE GREAT REPUBLIC.



WHEN the Revolution closed, our country was poor and without any regular form of government, but it had wise and patriotic men, ready to serve it in peace as well as in war. They came together and, after long consideration, on September 17, 1787, adopted the CONSTITUTION, under which we have lived ever since. The Constitution is one of the best instruments ever framed by man for the government of any people.

Of course there was only one man thought of for the first President of the Republic. He was George Washington, who was unanimously chosen in 1789, and again four years later. His grateful countrymen wished him to serve for a third term, but he was growing old and feeble, and longed

for the quiet of his home at Mount Vernon, where, after his retirement from his exalted office, he peacefully died on December 14, 1799, mourned by his own country and revered by the whole



Federal Hall, where Washington was Inaugurated.

civilized world, for he was one of the greatest and best men that ever lived.

New York City was the seat of government until 1790, when it was removed to Philadelphia, where it remained until 1800, when it was changed to the city of Washington. President Washington governed with the same wise patriotism and statesmanship that he had shown all through his

life. He had many difficulties to meet and overcome, and none could have done better than he.

During his administrations, three States were admitted to the Union: Vermont in March, 1791; Kentucky in June, 1792; and Tennessee in June, 1796.

The second President was John Adams, of Massachusetts, who held office only one term. Little of interest took place during his administration, with the exception of the death of Washington.

The third President was Thomas Jefferson, of Virginia, who was one of the greatest that filled that office. He was the author of the Declaration of Independence, and is considered the founder of the Democratic party. While he was in office, we had a war with Tripoli, one of the Barbary States, in northern Africa. It lasted from 1801 to 1805, and on our side was managed by our gallant little navy, which gave the barbarians such a sound trouncing that they were glad to make peace on our terms. In 1803, our Government purchased the Louisiana Territory from France, for \$15,000,000. The country known at that time by that name, was larger than all the thirteen States together. The first State carved

from the Northwestern Territory was Ohio, which was admitted to the Union in February, 1803.

James Madison, who was also a native of Virginia, was elected President in 1808, and served



Thomas Jefferson.

for two terms. For several years before this, Great Britain had acted very unjustly toward our sailors. She was engaged in a gigantic war with Napoleon Bonaparte, and was in sore need of seamen. So she stopped our ships on the high seas, and took off our sailors, claiming they were deserters who

belonged to her. Sometimes she was right, but more often wrong. She would not pay any attention to our protests, and after she had fired into our vessels and killed a number of our sailors, Congress lost patience and declared war against Great Britain in June, 1812, less than two months after Louisiana had been admitted as a State.

I am sorry to say that our land forces did not gain much credit in the War of 1812. General William Hull surrendered Detroit and all of Michigan Territory without striking a blow; the expeditions sent into Canada were failures, and the city of Washington was captured and partly burned by the British in 1814. Still, we had a number of brilliant successes, such as the battle of the Thames, in Canada, where the famous Indian chief Tecumseh was killed; at Lundy's Lane, and, finally, one of the grandest victories in our history was won by General Jackson at New Orleans, in January, 1815, after the treaty of peace had been signed, though the news had not yet reached this country.

But our gallant navy won a glory that will never fade. The pride of England was humbled



Battle of the Thames.

by the exploits of the "Yankees," who defeated her foremost naval commanders, and won victories which, until then, that nation never believed it possible for any people to gain over her men-of-war. You will find the story of the principal of these in the next chapter. Shortly after the great victory at New Orleans, the news that peace had been signed at the city of Ghent on the other side of the ocean, reached this country, and of course all fighting stopped between England and the United States.

James Monroe, another native of Virginia, was chosen President in 1816, in which year Indiana was admitted to the Union. You will understand why Virginia was long known as the "Mother of Presidents." The country was very prosperous under Monroe, who held the office for two terms; that is, from 1817 to 1825. Mississippi was admitted to the Union in December, 1817; Illinois in December, 1818; Alabama in December, 1819; and Maine in March, 1820.

John Quincy Adams, of Massachusetts, son of the second President, was chosen in 1824, and held the office for only one term. While he was President, the first railroad in the country was laid

in 1826, at Quincy, Massachusetts. It was only three miles long, and was operated by horse power. The other events were not of much importance.

Andrew Jackson, a native of North Carolina, though his home was in Tennessee, was elected President in 1828, and held the office for two terms. He ranks as one of our greatest Presidents. You remember that it was he who won the brilliant victory at New Orleans in January, 1815. He was a man of strong opinions, and very stubborn, but a devoted patriot and honest to the core. While he was President, Arkansas became a State in June, 1836, and Michigan in January, 1837. The times were so prosperous that in 1835 the whole national debt was paid.

Martin Van Buren, of New York, succeeded Jackson, and was President one term. He does not rank among our great Presidents, and under him the country suffered from a spell of the "hardest times" that it has ever known.

General William Henry Harrison, a native of Virginia, who was one of our best generals in the War of 1812, was elected in 1840. He died after being in office only a month, and was succeeded



Battle of New Orleans.

by the Vice-President, John Tyler, also a native of Virginia.

Florida became a State in March, 1845; Texas, in December following, and Iowa, in December, 1846. Mexico claimed that Texas belonged to her, and when it became a member of the American Union, she made ready for war. Meanwhile, James K. Polk, born in North Carolina, but belonging to Tennessee, had been elected President in 1844. He was in favor of the admission of Texas, as was everybody in the South. War with Mexico began in the month of April, 1846, and a series of battles followed, in all of which our forces were victorious.

The popularity gained by General Zachary Taylor in the war with Mexico led to his election as President in 1848. He was a native of Virginia, but his parents had removed to Kentucky while he was an infant. In May of the same year of his election, Wisconsin was admitted to the Union. Taylor held office about a year, when he died, and was succeeded by Millard Fillmore, the Vice-President, who was a native of the State of New York. Then Franklin Pierce, of New Hampshire, was chosen, and he gave way, in 1857,

to James Buchanan, of Pennsylvania. The following States were admitted: California, in September, 1850; Minnesota, May, 1858; Oregon, February, 1859; and Kansas, January, 1861.

For nearly half a century previous to this, an angry feeling had been growing up between the North and South over the question of slavery. The South claimed the right to take its slaves into any part of the Union, without having them declared free, while the North insisted that since slavery was illegal in the northern States, every colored man was free the moment he set foot within one of the free States. There was much wrangling, and sometimes blood was shed. The Republican party was formed on the platform that slavery should be kept out of the new territories created, and should not be allowed to extend beyond the real slave-holding States.

For some years, despite all this quarreling, there had been something like a balance kept between the power of the North and South, but it became clear, after a while, that the North was becoming the stronger, and the South believed that unless its political growth was checked in some way, the action against slavery would drive

the institution out of the country altogether. So sure were the Southerners of that being the end, that some of them determined to secede, or withdraw, from the Union, and have nothing more to do with the North.

The most earnest State was South Carolina. There were many who did not believe she would go to the length of seceding from the Union, on account of the election of a Republican President. Some of the southern States pleaded with her, but she believed she was in the right, and made preparations to leave the Union. In November, 1860, Abraham Lincoln, of Illinois, one of the greatest Americans that ever lived, was elected President, being the first Republican chosen to that office.

Let us now give our attention to the history of the Star Spangled Banner and of the principal events in the war for the Union, down to the decisive battle of the terrific struggle. To make the story connected, we must glance backward at events which immediately followed the Revolution.

VII.

THE BANNER OF FIFTEEN STRIPES.



HAVE you thought of a difficulty that our Government was sure to meet regarding the pattern of our flag? You know the first arrangement was that not only the stars but the stripes should represent the number of States in the Union. This made a banner whose beauty would last so long as the States did not increase, but Vermont and Kentucky were admitted to the Union in 1791 and 1792, and that, as you see, compelled a change in the flag. So Congress ordered that after May, 1795, the flag should consist of fifteen stripes, alternate red and white, and that the Union should be fifteen white stars in a blue field. Thus, all through the War of 1812, the American flag had fifteen stars and fifteen stripes.

Now, this was not a wise way of providing for showing the new States on the flag, for three years after the close of the War of 1812, five more States had been added to the Union. Had the law been followed, the flag would have had twenty stripes, but long before that time it had become plain to everybody that if the rule were carried out, the beauty of the flag would be spoiled; so no new stripes were added for the new States. To-day, when we have forty-five States, the stripes would be red and white lines, if the old law were followed, and our emblem would be fatally marred.

But what was to be done? Each State should be represented on the flag, or otherwise the emblem would lose half its significance. You remember that "Old Glory" was born by resolution of Congress on the 14th of June, 1777. Washington, assisted by a committee, had much to do in preparing a design. They called upon Mrs. Elizabeth Ross, in Philadelphia, and asked her to make a flag from a rough pattern prepared by Washington. It was at her suggestion that the six-pointed star submitted by him was changed to a five-pointed one. Mrs. Ross and her descendants furnished



The Betsy Ross House, Philadelphia.

the flags for many years to the Government, and the house in which the first one was made is still standing at 239 Arch Street.

But as I have said, the increase of the States presented a problem to Congress, which turned it over to Captain Samuel C. Reid for solution. Captain Reid was one of the bravest naval officers in the second war with Great Britain, and it did not take him long to solve the question. The matter was so simple that we cannot help wondering why it was not thought of before. His plan was that the thirteen alternate red and white stripes should remain unchanged on the flag as typical of the thirteen original States—a distinction which they well deserved—and that for every State added to the Union, there should be a new star placed in the constellation of the blue field. Could anything be simpler or more appropriate? The law now is that when a State joins the Union, the additional star shall appear on the Fourth of July next following. Congress was so pleased with the happy solution of Captain Reid that it gave him a vote of thanks.

Mrs. Reid held a sewing bee at her home in Cherry Street, New York, and under her guidance

the first flag of the new pattern was made. It had thirteen stripes and twenty stars. All the ladies who helped in sewing it, stitched their names into the flag, which was sent to Washington, and, on April 13, 1818, flung to the breeze from the Capitol, though, as I have told you, the twentieth star—representing Mississippi—had no legal right to appear on the flag until the following Fourth of July, since that State was admitted in December, 1817.

The stars in the flag were placed at first in the form of a circle, to show that the Union was endless. There has never been any law for the arrangement of the stars, but as the number increased, it was found more tasteful to place them in parallel rows. Some people foresee difficulty when the States of the Union become one hundred or possibly more in number, but I have no doubt the inventive faculty of the present boys and girls will find as easy a solution to the problem as Captain Reid did in 1818. So we will not “cross that bridge” until we come to it.

I really think no one can study the flag without agreeing that it is perfect in every respect. Aside from its exquisite beauty and significance,

it can be readily "reversed," which is not the case with many flags. If a ship at sea is in distress, or a body of armed men are in need of help, the rule is to display the flag upside down, or "reversed." The meaning of such a call for help is understood everywhere.

A striking tribute to the graceful beauty of the flag was rendered in September, 1784, when an American captain carried for the first time our national emblem into Chinese waters. Crowds gathered on the shore to admire the wonderful "flower flag," and they called Americans "Men of the flower banner."

Although our flag bore fifteen stripes for a little more than twenty years, yet the period was an eventful one in our history. A flag of this pattern was presented to the French Government in 1794 by the United States, when James Monroe, who afterward became President, visited France. You know France was very friendly during the Revolution, and gave us great help in our struggle for independence; but I cannot help thinking that in doing so, she was inspired as much by her hatred of England as by her affection for us; for, within five or six years after the

French had twined their own tricolor with our banner and shown our flag great respect, they treated us so insultingly that several battles were fought between her naval vessels and our own; but I am proud to say that in every instance the tricolor was defeated by the Star Spangled Banner.

It must be remembered, too, that the flag of fifteen stars and stripes was the first flag of ours to float over a fortification on the eastern side of the Atlantic. I have referred to the war with Tripoli, which for many years had been paid tribute by civilized nations, on the promise that their ships cruising in the Mediterranean should not be molested by the barbarian pirates. This course was not creditable to the Christian nations, but they found it cheaper to pay the tribute than to send fleets to that part of the world to destroy the pirates. The United States followed the custom for twenty years. It gave the ruler of Tripoli a big idea of his own importance, and when we were behind hand in sending him our tribute, he had the impudence to declare war against us.

Well, our gallant little navy sailed into the Mediterranean and made short work of his scamps,

Derne, one of the seaports of Tripoli, was bombarded, and the town stormed and captured in April, 1805. Then for the first time the Stars and Stripes was hoisted over a fortification on that side of the Atlantic. That was the end of the civilized nations paying tribute to Tripoli.

As you will remember, the United States declared war against Great Britain, in June, 1812, because she persisted in searching our ships on the high seas and taking off many of our sailors, on the ground that they were English deserters. She laughed at the idea of our daring to make war against her, and spoke of our gunboats as "bundles of pine boards with the gridiron flag floating over them." Indeed, Great Britain had so prodigious a navy that it did seem folly for us to think of fighting her on the ocean over which she claimed, with justice, that she was mistress. It is a fact that our Government decided to make no contest against her on the high seas, but Captains Bainbridge, Stewart, and other naval officers persuaded the authorities to give the navy a chance; and it was well they did so, for, as I have told you, our armies gained little credit in the land operations. Three days after General William Hull had made a cowardly

surrender of Detroit, his nephew, Captain Isaac Hull, in command of the *Constitution*, a forty-four gun ship, engaged the *Guerrière* (gâre-e-âre), a thirty-eight gun ship, off the coast of Massachusetts. Dacres, the captain of the *Guerrière*, and Hull were old acquaintances, who had made a wager on the results of a meeting between their ships. The battle was a furious one, in which the English ship lost seventy-nine killed and wounded, while the *Constitution* had only seven killed and seven wounded. Dacres fought desperately, and when he surrendered his ship was a wallowing wreck. As he came up the side of the *Constitution*, Captain Hull extended his hand and said, "Dacres, I don't want your sword, but I do claim that hat I bet with you."

The shattered *Guerrière* was blown up, and Captain Hull sailed to Boston with his prisoners. The victory caused great rejoicing throughout the United States. Congress gave Hull a gold medal and distributed fifty thousand dollars among his crew. The news of the destruction of one of the finest frigates of the British navy spread dismay in England, where the people could not understand how such a thing took place.

Another splendid American victory was won by Captain Stephen Decatur, twelve days after the one I have just told you about. While cruising with the frigate *United States*, of forty-four guns, he fell in with the *Macedonian* of forty-nine guns. Decatur, who was one of the bravest naval officers that ever lived, fought the enemy with the daring



skill shown by Paul Jones when he captured the *Serapis*. He lost only twelve men, while the enemy lost a hundred. Decatur reached New York with his prisoners on New Year's day, 1813, and was received with the same enthusiasm as Hull.

The *Constitution* won the name of the luckiest ship in the American navy, and if you could read of all her wonderful escapes and exploits, you would agree that she deserved the name. She passed safely through storm and tempest, defeated stronger vessels than herself again and again, and seemed to bear a charmed life. I suppose you have read that stirring poem which Oliver Wendell Holmes wrote when he



Capture of the Macedonian.

was a youth, inspired to do so by the talk of dismantling the veteran of the seas, when the days of peace had come.

“Aye, tear her tattered ensign down,
Long has she waved on high,
And many an eye has danced to see
That banner in the sky !
Beneath it rang the battle shout
And burst the cannon’s roar;—
The meteor of the ocean air
Shall sweep the clouds no more !

“Her deck, once red with heroes’ blood,
Where knelt the vanquished foe,
When winds were hurrying o’er the flood,
And waves were white below,
No more shall feel the victor’s tread,
Or know the conquered knee ;
The harpies of the-shore shall pluck
The eagle of the sea.

“O better that her shattered hulk
Should sink beneath the wave ;
Her thunders shook the mighty deep
And there should be her grave ;
Nail to her mast her holy flag,
Set every threadbare sail ;
And give her to the God of storms,
The lightning and the gale !”

In those grand old days we had more officers than ships, and the chivalrous heroes were quite

willing to give their comrades a chance to share in their glory. The command of the *Constitution* now fell to Commodore Bainbridge, who lost no time in showing what he could do with such a splendid ship and crew. Off the coast of Brazil, he sighted the British frigate *Java*, of thirty-eight guns. The Englishmen were anxious to wipe out the disgrace of previous defeats by the *Constitution*, and as soon as the two could come within range they opened the battle with the fury of tigers.

Both were confident, and it must be said that the Englishmen fought with a bravery that could not be surpassed; but one fact had become evident by this time: the Americans were much better marksmen than their enemies, and hardly ever threw away a shot. They seemed always to hit what they fired at, and so it came about that at the end of some three hours the *Constitution* had lost thirty-four men, while every mast was torn from the *Java*, her hull had been burst with round shot, she had lost one hundred and twenty men, and her captain was among the mortally wounded. So the *Constitution* added another to her list of victories.

In the autumn of the same year, Captain Jacob

Jones, with the sloop-of-war *Wasp*, joined battle with the British brig *Frolic*. The two fought lying side by side, and the spars of the *Wasp* were shot away and the hull of the *Frolic* mangled and riddled. Then Captain Jones grappled and led his crew over the deck of the *Frolic*. All they found above deck was the man at the wheel and two officers. There were not twenty men on the *Frolic* who escaped unhurt, while the *Wasp* had lost only ten of her crew. Before, however, the Americans could get away, the *Poictiers* (pwà' tî á'), a British seventy-four gun ship, bore down upon and captured them.

Of course our country was proud and delighted over the exploits of her naval heroes. On January 2, 1813, a splendid banquet was given in New York in honor of Hull, Decatur, and Jones. It was held in the banqueting hall of the City Hotel, a short distance above Trinity Church. The spacious room had been fitted up to represent a marine palace. The graceful columns were set as the masts of ships, and were twined about with laurel, and ornamented with the flags of the leading nations. Each table was decorated with a small ship displaying the American flag, which, you

will remember, contained fifteen stripes. Behind all was stretched a mainsail, thirty-three feet long and sixteen feet high. When the toast "Our Navy" was given, this huge sail was furled, and disclosed an immense painting showing the three naval battles, one of which had been won by Hull, by Decatur, and by Jones. How the diners cheered, and how the bronzed faces of the heroes of those historical triumphs turned crimson—for the true hero is always modest—and they blushed like schoolgirls. Those who took part in that memorable banquet remembered it with pleasure to the close of their lives.

All this was very inspiring, but you must not think that every time our army or navy fought a battle it was successful. We had to take our share of defeats, and one of the saddest was that of the *Chesapeake* by the British frigate *Shannon*. Captain James Lawrence, with the sloop-of-war *Hornet*, won so fine a victory over the English brig *Peacock*, in the latter part of February, 1813, that he was appointed to the command of the frigate *Chesapeake*, which was then refitting in the harbor of Boston. Captain Broke, who was cruising off the coast, challenged Lawrence to come out

and fight him, and the young commander accepted the challenge.

It was a reckless thing to do, for the *Chesapeake* was not ready for sea, some of the crew were soured and sullen, because they had not been paid the prize money to which they thought they were entitled, and it is said that a number of them were under the influence of liquor.

The battle was fought on June 1st, so near to Boston that the thousands who lined the shore and swarmed on the roofs of buildings, saw it plainly. In less than fifteen minutes the tremendous fire of the *Shannon* had made the *Chesapeake* unmanageable. While directing the hopeless battle, Captain Lawrence was mortally wounded and carried below deck. He lived for some time, and in his delirium, when he thought he was commanding his ship in battle, he often shouted the order, "*Don't give up the ship!*" These words served for years as the motto of the American navy.

But this year saw one of the grandest victories in our history. Oliver Hazard Perry, only twenty-eight years of age, who had never seen a battle, was ordered to the command of the American fleet on Lake Erie, most of which, at that time, was in

the form of trees growing in the woods along the shore; but he set to work with so much vigor that he soon fitted out nine vessels, carrying fifty-four guns, with which, in the month of August, he sailed forth to find Commodore Barclay, who had six vessels with sixty-three guns. The two fleets met on the 10th of September at the western end of Lake Erie.

Young Perry was ardent and aglow with confidence. Just before the battle, he hoisted to the masthead of his flagship, the *Lawrence*, a banner on which were inscribed the last thrilling words of the hero killed three months before, "*Don't give up the ship!*" Commodore Barclay singled out the flagship and assailed it with such fury that in two hours it was riddled and helpless. Perry left its side in a small boat, whose crew rowed with might and main for the *Niagara*. In doing this, they passed directly in front of the guns of the British flagship. Captain Perry stood erect and would not sit down until his four sailors declared they would stop rowing unless he did so. It is marvelous how he escaped, but he was not touched by any of the missiles flying all about him, and, reaching the *Niagara*, he ran up his flag again.

This action compelled the enemy to form a new



Battle of Lake Erie.

line of battle, and while they were engaged in doing so, Perry sent the *Niagara* right through them, hurling broadside after broadside with appalling effect. His companion vessels crowded after their leader, and delivered such a frightful raking fire, that at four o'clock in the afternoon the fleet surrendered. It was the first time in the naval history of Great Britain that an entire squadron had struck its flag to an enemy. The Americans had twenty-seven killed and ninety-six wounded, while the British had two hundred killed and wounded and lost six hundred prisoners. A sad misfortune befell Commodore Barclay! Years before he had lost one of his arms, and in this battle the other was shot away.

The proud Perry was rowed back to the crimson deck of the battered *Lawrence*, where he penciled the following despatch to General William Henry Harrison: "We have met the enemy and they are ours: two ships, two brigs, one schooner, and one sloop."

Perry's victory had far-reaching results, for had he been defeated, the British General Proctor would have invaded Ohio with his army; but now General Harrison immediately passed over

into Canada, where he won a great victory over the enemy near the Moravian towns on the Thames. It was in this battle that the famous Shawnee chief Tecumseh, the greatest Indian that ever lived, was killed, and his confederacy destroyed, while Ohio was freed from all danger of invasion, and the territory surrendered by General Hull recovered.

The American brig *Enterprise* won a terrific battle over the British man-of-war *Boxer* off the harbor of Portland, Maine. In that engagement, the American flag was pierced fifty-nine times, and the commanders of both ships were killed. While Lieutenant Burrows lay dying on the deck of the *Enterprise*, he raised his head and begged that the colors should never be struck. His comrades replied by placing in his hands the sword of the conquered Englishman. The two commanders were buried side by side, for one was as worthy of honor as the other. Longfellow refers to this battle as follows :

“I remember the sea-fight far away,
How it thundered o’er the tide,
And the dead captains as they lay
In their graves o’erlooking the tranquil bay
Where they in battle died.”

I must not forget to tell you about the splendid defense of Fort McHenry, Baltimore, for it was that which gave birth to our national song, "The Star Spangled Banner." Sad to say, the incident is connected with the most humiliating misfortune of the war. Our Government knew the city of Washington was in danger, but neglected to take proper precaution to save it. In August, 1814, Admiral Cockburn (cō'burn) sailed up the Chesapeake with five thousand soldiers, who landed forty miles from the city, toward which they marched under the command of General Ross. Commodore Barney, with a few sailors and several pieces of artillery, made a heroic defense of the bridge leading to Bladensburg, and did not yield until six hundred of his marines had been killed and wounded and himself disabled. General Ross was so filled with admiration of their valor that he paroled Barney on the spot.

Ross entered Washington at the head of eight hundred men at the close of day on August 24th. He offered to spare the city for a large ransom, but in the confusion there was no one to act, and it was fired. The President's house, the offices of several departments, the libraries and public ar-

chives, many private dwellings, the navy yard and its contents, a frigate on the stocks, and several vessels were destroyed, the only public property saved being the jail and patent office. In England much indignation was expressed over this vandalism.

General Ross now declared he would capture Baltimore and make it his headquarters. He landed eight thousand troops on the 12th of September at North Point, fourteen miles from the city, but while advancing he was shot dead by an American sharpshooter. Ascending the Patapsco, the British fleet bombarded Forts McHenry and Covington, and on the following night attempted to storm the works, but was repulsed.

Francis Scott Key was in Baltimore when the ships of the enemy came up the river. Entering a boat, he was rowed out under a flag of truce, and asked for the release of a friend whom the British had taken prisoner. The officers allowed him to take his friend, but would not permit them to return to the shore, since the ships were about to open the bombardment of the city. The little boat was anchored in a safe place under guard, and the occupants watched the cannonade with

intense anxiety, all through the darkness of night, expecting every moment to hear the explosion that would betoken the fall of the forts; but when morning dawned, they saw through the smoke that "the flag was still there." It was this joyful sight which inspired Key to write the song that will never die.

The flag of Fort McHenry was made by Mrs. Mary Dickersgill and her daughter Mrs. Caroline J. Purdy, of Baltimore. Referring to it, Mrs. Purdy says: "The flag being so very large, my mother was obliged to obtain permission from the proprietor of Daggett's brewery, which was in our neighborhood, to spread it out in his malt house, and I remember seeing my mother down on the floor placing the stars. After the completion of the flag, she superintended the topping of it, having it fastened in the most secure manner, to prevent its being carried away by balls. The wisdom of this precaution was shown during the engagement, many shots piercing it, but it still remained firm to the staff. Colonel Armistead, the Commander of Fort McHenry, declared that none but the maker of the flag should mend it, and requested that the rents should be merely bound round. The

flag contained, I think, four hundred yards of bunting, and my mother worked many nights until twelve o'clock to complete it in the given time." Mrs. Stuart Appleton, of Boston, who was born at Fort McHenry, beneath its folds, is now in the possession of this historical emblem, which decorated the tent where Lafayette was entertained during his visit to the United States in 1824-25.

VIII.



OUR FLAG FROM 1815 TO 1861.

As you have learned, the Star Spangled Banner, with its fifteen stripes, disappeared in 1818, and was succeeded by the present beautiful model, whose stripes will always remain the same in number, while new stars are added as States come into the Union.

We had some thirty years of blessed peace after the close of the war with England in 1815, yet it cannot be said that those years were wholly peaceful, for there was long and vexatious trouble with the Seminole Indians of Florida. Our policy toward the red men has nearly always been not only unjust, but cruel, and in most of our wars with them we have been more at fault than they. The first Seminole war was not of much importance, but the second, which broke out in 1835, was

serious. On December 28th of that year, General Thompson, while dining with a party of friends, was fired upon by the famous chief Osceola and killed, together with four of his companions. On the same day, Major Dade was ambushed with one hundred men in a swamp in another part of



The "Lone Star" Flag of Texas.

Florida, and all were killed excepting two, who afterward died of their wounds. Hostilities raged viciously until 1842, when they were brought to a close by General William J. Worth. I am sorry to feel obliged to tell you that while the war was in progress, Osceola was made prisoner (October, 1837), when visiting the American camp under a flag of truce. This was a violation of the laws of civilized warfare. Osceola was kept a captive until the following year, when he died.

I have referred to our war with Mexico, which was caused by the admission of Texas to the

Union. Mexico claimed the territory as hers, and went to war rather than yield it to us. Texas expected this, and asked our Government to send a force for its protection. Accordingly, General Zachary Taylor was ordered to move from his camp in western Louisiana and take position in Texas. He established a depot of provisions at Point Isabel on the Gulf, and then marched to the Rio Grande (*gran-dā*). He paused opposite the Mexican town of Matamoras, and hurriedly built Fort Brown. In April, the Mexican general notified Taylor that the war had begun. On the 26th of the same month, Captain Thornton, commanding a party of American dragoons, was attacked by an overwhelming force and compelled to surrender. Thus the first bloodshed of the Mexican War was on the soil of Texas.

General Taylor left a small garrison at Fort Brown and hastened to Point Isabel. On his return, May 8th, he met a Mexican force twice as great as his own, at Palo Alto (*pā'lo āl'tō*), where a furious battle was fought and the Mexicans were routed. The next day Taylor encountered another large force at Resaca de la Palma (*rä-sä'kä dā lä päl'mä*), only three miles from Fort

Brown. The result of the battle was doubtful until Captain May with his dragoons charged through the grapeshot, cut down the Mexican gunners, and captured their commander. This disaster threw the Mexicans into a panic, and



General Winfield Scott.

they fled pell-mell to the other side of the Rio Grande.

General Winfield Scott had supreme command of the American forces in Mexico, and he formed them into three divisions. One was to cross the Rocky Mountains under General Kearny (car'ny) and subdue the northern Mexican provinces; an-



Navy Pennant.



The Union Jack.



The United States Flag.
(July 4, 1896.)



The President's Flag.



Flag of the Secretary of the Navy.

other, under General Taylor, was to seize and hold the districts of the Rio Grande; while the third, under General Scott himself, was to advance from the Gulf into the heart of the country, with the City of Mexico as his destination.

General Taylor, in accordance with this plan of campaign, crossed the Rio Grande opposite Fort Brown, and had little trouble in capturing Matamoras. When reënforcements had swelled his army to sixty-six hundred he marched upon Monterey (mön-tā-rā'), which was defended by ten thousand Mexicans. The attack and defense were brave, but nothing could check the Americans, who pushed through streets and chased the enemy over housetops, until their commander had no choice but to surrender.

General Scott, having decided to advance directly against the capital, called most of his troops in Mexico around him and set forth. Taylor was left with so few men that Santa Anna at the head of twenty thousand soldiers, four times as many as the Americans, decided to take advantage of the disparity of numbers and attack his command at Buena Vista (bwā'nā vees'tā) in February, 1847. Santa Anna felt absolutely

certain of crushing or annihilating the "northern barbarians," and pressed the battle with the utmost energy throughout the whole day. When darkness set in, however, he was beaten back at all points, and during the night retreated with all his forces.

Meanwhile, General Kearny had left Fort Leavenworth, and on the 18th of August, 1846, he captured and garrisoned Santa Fé (fâ). The New Mexican provinces preferred to submit rather than fight, and while pressing toward the Pacific coast, Kearny was met with the news that General Fremont had gained great success in California. Aided by Commodores Stockton and Sloat and General Kearny, that immense section was subdued before the close of the year.

And right here I must tell you about the historical "Bear Flag" of California. While the war with Mexico was under way, the news which reached California naturally caused great excitement. You may have read that it was in February, 1848, that James W. Marshall, while digging out a mill race in the Sacramento valley, picked up a yellow pebble, which upon investigation proved to be pure gold; and it was soon

found that the soil of the present State of California contained many million dollars' worth of the precious metal.

Some years previous, Captain Sutter, a Swiss immigrant of large means, had erected a fort near Monterey as a protection against the Indians. Mr. Edward M. Kern, a well-known artist of Philadelphia, had joined Colonel Fremont's party in the search for a practicable route through the Rocky Mountains. When news of the war reached Captain Sutter at the fort, where Mr. Kern had gone, the old gentleman felt that he ought to display a flag. He had no right to use the Stars and Stripes, and he asked Mr. Kern to paint him a flag that would answer.

Bears were very numerous in California, and the artist thought that animal should appear prominently on the emblem. An aged niece of Mr. Kern, living at this writing in Philadelphia, says that the artist told her that as he had no red paint for the tongue of the animal, he opened a vein in his own arm, so that the bear's tongue in the flag was represented by human blood. The River Kern, discovered by that gentleman, Kernville, and Kern County were all named in honor

of the painter of the "Bear Flag" of California. When President McKinley, in the spring of 1901, visited the State, he took pride in standing on the spot where this famous flag was first raised.

Returning to our account of the Mexican War, General Scott in March, 1847, invested Vera Cruz (vā'rā kroos) with an army of twelve thousand men. The city surrendered after a bombardment lasting several days, and then the road was open to the City of Mexico. The Mexicans gave battle in the mountain pass of Cerro Gordo (sēr'rō gôr'do), but were routed, Santa Anna fleeing in such headlong haste that he left his wooden leg behind him. The next day the American army entered Jalapa (hā-lā'pā). The castle of Perote made no resistance, and an immense amount of supplies came into the possession of the Americans.

The city of Puebla (poo-ā'blāh) made haste to surrender, and on the 10th of August, the American army looked across the beautiful country and saw the City of Mexico, glowing like a vision of fairy land through the clear sunlight. It seemed secure behind its formidable fortifications; but our army was confident, and with little delay set

out on the eventful march. Upon arriving at Ayotla, fifteen miles from the capital, General Scott found the defenses were so strong, that he swung to the south around Lake Chalco (chäl'kō), and then turned eastward to San Augustin, which took him within ten miles of the capital. On the



Capture of the Tête de Font, Churubusco.

morning of August 20th, Contreras (con-trä'ras) was stormed. It took less than half an hour to send the six thousand Mexicans flying out of the fortifications, after which the garrison of San Antonio was routed. Then the heights of Chu-

rubusco (koo-roo-boos'ko) were assailed. Santa Anna advanced with a large force to its defense, but was defeated and driven back.


Santa Anna was one of the most treacherous of men. He had offered at the beginning of the war to sell his country to the Americans, and actually received a part of the price he demanded, but he found himself unable to perform his part of the agreement, and then attempted to play the part of a patriot. He now proposed negotiations to General Scott, but his terms were such as a conqueror would have offered, and it was so clear that he was merely trying to gain time, that the Americans resumed hostilities, and, on September 8th, the western defenses of the city were captured. Chapultepec (ka-pool'te-pec) quickly fell, and when the sun went down the invaders were within the suburbs of the city. On the night of September 13th, Santa Anna set free two thousand convicts to fight our soldiers, while he and the city officers scampered off in the darkness.

The next day the city surrendered. General Scott, standing in the public square, proclaimed the conquest of Mexico. A treaty of peace was

signed on February 2, 1848, by the terms of which we gained Texas, New Mexico, California, and Arizona. Our Government pledged itself to pay Mexico fifteen million dollars, and to assume all debts due from the Mexican Government to American citizens to the extent of three million five hundred thousand dollars. Thus was completed the triumph of the American flag amid the "halls of the Montezumas."

IX.

OUR FLAG FROM FORT SUMTER TO GETTYSBURG

A black and white illustration of a soldier in a military uniform, standing and holding a rifle. The soldier is positioned on the left side of the page, partially overlapping the large initial letter 'T' of the first sentence. The illustration is done in a sketchy, woodcut style.

THE ordinance of secession was passed amid wild rejoicing and excitement, by a convention in Charleston, South Carolina, on December 20, 1860. Knowing that she would be the first to feel the resentment of the national Government, the city made preparations to parry the blow. The harbor was defended by Castle Pinckney and Forts Moultrie, Sumter, and Johnson. Fort Sumter was the strongest, but Major Robert Anderson, with a small garrison, was in Fort Moultrie. On the night of December 26th, he secretly removed his men to Fort Sumter. The Confederates, who regarded it as a violation of an understanding with the national Government, were indignant, and the next day occupied Fort Moultrie and Castle Pinckney, and

seized the custom house, post-office, and Government arsenal. On the morning of January 9th, the steamer *Star of the West*, while approaching Fort Sumter to deliver supplies, was fired upon



The Attack on Fort Sumter.

and compelled to withdraw. She returned to New York.

Delegates from South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Florida assembled and organized the Southern Confederacy. Jefferson Davis and Alexander H. Stephens were chosen respectively President and Vice-President.

This was a provisional Government, which was afterward perfected by the choice of the same officers, who remained in power as long as the Confederacy lasted. Mississippi had seceded January 9th, Florida and Alabama on the 11th, Georgia on the 19th, Louisiana on the 26th, and Texas on the 1st of February. These States were afterward joined by Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Arkansas. The friends of the Union made resolute efforts to keep Virginia from seceding, but she refused to take sides against her sister States of the South, and obeyed the voice of her people, who believed that each State was sovereign, and had a constitutional right to withdraw from the Union.

South Carolina unfurled her flag as soon as the news of the election of Abraham Lincoln was telegraphed to Charleston. The flag recalled the old pine-tree banner of colonial times, being white, with a green palmetto tree in the center. Some of the flags bore the motto of South Carolina, *Animis Opibusque Parati*, meaning "Prepared in mind and resources." Other banners proclaimed "South Carolina goes it alone," and "South Carolina wants no stripes."

Now you will note that the palmetto flag was a State one, and the Confederates needed a banner that would represent the Southern Republic. They tried a great many patterns, but it was a long time before they found one that was fully satisfactory. At first they used a flag with a red ground, divided into four equal parts by a large blue cross set with fifteen stars, for the seceding States. South Carolina was honored with the largest star, which was placed in the center. In the upper squares were the palmetto tree and also the silver crescent, which General Moultrie selected for use during the Revolution. Farther on, I shall give you a fuller account of the development of the Confederate flag.

The national Government was in great perplexity over the right course to follow. Finally it was decided to send a fleet with provisions and supplies to Major Anderson at Fort Sumter. As soon as this became known to the authorities at Montgomery, they telegraphed to General Beauregard (bō're-gard), commanding at Charleston, to compel the surrender of Major Anderson. The demand being refused, Beauregard opened fire upon Sumter. The first shot curved over

the bay toward the fort in the early dawn of Friday, April 12th, and came from Fort Johnson. No reply was made until seven o'clock, when Captain Abner Doubleday sent a shot from Fort Sumter. The bombardment was deliberate, and



Copyright, 1891, by M. P. Rice. From a negative made in 1864.

Abraham Lincoln.

lasted for thirty-four hours, during which the walls of the fort were badly injured and the main gates destroyed. The barracks broke into flame, and to prevent an explosion most of the powder was thrown into the sea. When the am-

munition was gone, and the smoke was so dense that the garrison could hardly breathe, Major Anderson lowered his flag. No one had been killed on either side.

The capture of Fort Sumter fired the hearts of both the South and North. All talk of compromise ceased, and men everywhere clamored for places in the ranks. It was evident that Virginia was to be the great battlefield of the war, and the Confederacy made Richmond its capital. In a few weeks 50,000 Confederate troops were in the field, with many more hurrying forward, while 300,000 Northerners answered the call of President Lincoln for 75,000 volunteers.

The largest national flag of those stirring times was raised over the Roman Catholic cathedral in Cincinnati, its length being ninety feet. The one that floated from the summit of Bunker Hill monument remained until the downfall of the Confederacy. Among the many poems that appeared was the "Flag of the Constellation," by Thomas Buchanan Read :

" The stars of morn in our banner borne
 With the iris of heaven are blended ;
 The hand of our sires first kindled those fires,
 And by us they shall be defended,

CHORUS.

“ Then hail the true Red, White and Blue,
The flag of the Constellation;
It sails as it sailed by our forefathers hailed
O'er battles that made us a nation.

“ What hand so bold as to strike from its fold
One star or one stripe of its brightening ?
For him be those stars each a fiery Mars,
Each stripe be a terrible lightning.

“ Then hail the true Red, White and Blue, etc.

“ Its meteor form shall ride the storm,
Till the fiercest of foes surrender ;
The storm gone by, it shall gild the sky,
A rainbow of peace and of splendor.

“ Then hail the true Red, White and Blue, etc.

“ Peace to the world our motto unfurled,
Though we shun not the field that is gory ;
At home or abroad fearing none but our God,
We will carve our own pathway to glory.

“ Then hail the true Red, White and Blue, etc.”

The poets of the South were equally fervid and produced numerous thrilling “bugle calls,” of which none was more popular than “The Bonnie Blue Flag,” by Harry McCarthy:

“We are a band of brothers, and native to the soil,
Fighting for our liberty, with treasure, blood, and
toil ;
And when our rights were threatened, the cry rose
near and far,
Hurrah for the Bonnie Blue Flag that bears a Single
Star !

Chorus.—Hurrah ! hurrah ! for Southern Rights,
Hurrah !

Hurrah ! for the Bonnie Blue Flag that
bears a Single Star !

“As long as the Union was faithful to her trust,
Like friends and like brethren, kind were we and
just ;
But now when Northern treachery attempts our rights
to mar,
We hoist on high the Bonnie Blue Flag that bears
a Single Star.

“First, gallant South Carolina nobly made the stand ;
Then came Alabama, who took her by the hand ;
Next, quickly, Mississippi, Georgia, and Florida,
All raised on high the Bonnie Blue Flag that bears
a Single Star.

“Ye men of valor, gather round the banner of the
right,
Texas and fair Louisiana join us in the fight ;
Davis, our loved President, and Stephens, statesman
rare,
Now rally round the Bonnie Blue Flag that bears a
Single Star.

“And here’s to brave Virginia, the old Dominion State,
With the young Confederacy at length has linked her
fate ;

Impelled by her example, now other States prepare,
To hoist on high the Bonnie Blue Flag that bears a
Single Star.

“Then cheer, boys, raise the joyous shout,
For Arkansas and North Carolina now have both gone
out ;

And let another rousing cheer for Tennessee be given,
The Single Star of the Bonnie Blue Flag has grown
to be Eleven.

“Then here’s to our Confederacy, strong we are and
brave,

Like patriots of old, we’ll fight our heritage to save ;
And rather than submit to shame, to die we would
prefer,

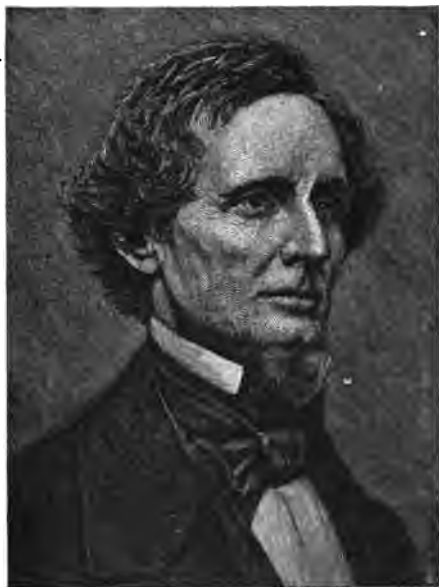
So cheer for the Bonnie Blue Flag that bears a Sin-
gle Star.

“*Chorus.*—Hurrah ! hurrah ! for Southern Rights,
Hurrah !

Hurrah ! for the Bonnie Blue Flag has
gained the Eleventh Star !”

Few in the North or South dreamed of the im-
mensity of the struggle that now opened. The
South was confident that its armies would soon
beat back those of the North, which would be-
come discouraged and give up the scheme of con-
quest. The North believed it would be able to

end the war in a few weeks or months at the most. Both were woefully mistaken, for it was "Greek against Greek," as may be said. In other words, it was American against American, and



From a photograph in the possession of his family.
Jefferson Davis.

there are no braver soldiers in the world. Each section had educated, brilliant commanders, and believed in the justice of its cause. The conflict, therefore, must be fierce, bloody, and long.

The North grew impatient over the delay in

advancing against Richmond, the Confederate capital, where the Congress had been summoned to meet on the 4th of July. The cry of "On to Richmond" became so clamorous that General Irwin McDowell marched out of Washington, at the head of 30,000 men, and met the Confederate army under General Beauregard, on Sunday, July 21st, at Bull Run, near Manassas Junction, Virginia. The battle was gradually tending toward a Union success, when the Confederates received reënforcements, and the Federal troops were thrown into a wild panic and driven pell-mell toward Washington. The first battle of the war, therefore, was an overwhelming victory for the Confederates.

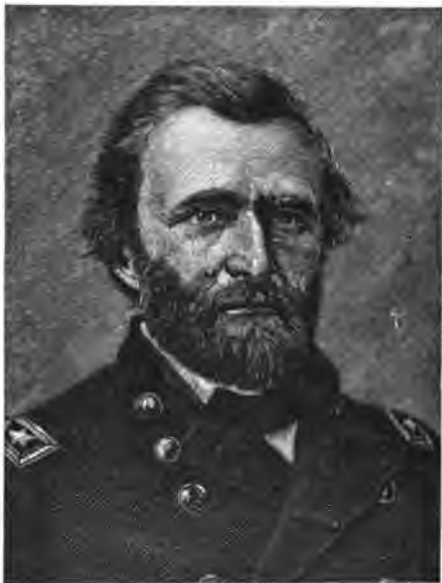
The result, however, proved disastrous to the South and beneficial to the North. It gave a fatal self-confidence to the former, many of whose soldiers left the army and went home, believing that independence was already secured. The North awoke to the fact that a stupendous task was before her; that immense armies must be raised, equipped, and sent into the field, and that many lives must be sacrificed before the Union could be restored. The North was much richer

than the South, had far greater resources, and could place many more troops in the field. But a marked advantage of the South was that she was fighting on the defensive; she was thoroughly united, and her leaders were among the ablest military men in the country.

For a year the fighting was disjointed and without any well-defined plan of campaign. There were many battles not only in Virginia, but in the West, with the results generally favorable to the Confederates. Before the opening of 1862, it was clear to the national Government that several things had to be accomplished before the seceded States could be brought back into the Union. The powerful army in Virginia must be destroyed and Richmond captured; an effective blockade must be maintained, in order to shut out the supplies from abroad which the Confederacy needed; and the Mississippi must be opened and kept open. You will bear in mind these prodigious tasks in following the leading events of the Civil War.

Let us first glance at the campaigns in the Southwest. The Confederates held a strongly fortified line extending from Columbus to Cum-

berland Gap. Locate these points on the map. If the Union troops could break through the center of this line, the Confederates would have to leave Columbus and thus open the road to Nashville for



After a photograph taken at the time of the siege of Vicksburg.
General U. S. Grant.

the Federal forces. Commodore Foote, with a fleet of gunboats, and General U. S. Grant, with a powerful land force, advanced from Cairo (kā'ro) against Fort Henry on the Tennessee. A sharp bombardment compelled the fort to surrender on

February 6th, but most of the garrison escaped by land to Fort Donelson, twelve miles distant, on the Cumberland River. The gunboats passed down stream to the Ohio and then went up the Cumberland, while Grant hurried across the country to aid in the attack on Fort Donelson. The weather was so cold that a number of soldiers froze to death.

The Union fleet maintained the fire for three days and then was repulsed, Commodore Foote receiving a severe wound. The garrison tried to cut their way out, but Grant repelled them, and, on February 16th, the fort surrendered with fifteen thousand men. This was the first important victory gained by the Union army, and was the beginning of General Grant's popularity and the career which stamped him as the foremost leader of the Union forces.

This piercing of the line of the Confederates compelled them to establish a new line for the defense of the Southwestern States. When it was formed they had abandoned Kentucky and left the upper portion of Tennessee to the Federals. The latter ascended the Tennessee to Shiloh or Pittsburg Landing. General Grant was in com-

mand, and General Buell, at Nashville, was ordered to join him. Before he could do so the Confederates furiously attacked Grant (April 6th), and only by the most desperate resistance was he able to save himself from being driven into the river. He held the enemy in check until Buell arrived. The fighting was renewed the next day, and ended with the repulse of the Confederates, who lost their leader, General Albert Sidney Johnston, one of the ablest officers of the Confederacy.

The greatest battle fought in the Southwest in 1862 was that of Murfreesboro', which opened on the last day of the year. Rosecrans commanded the Union army, and Bragg the Confederate, which had the advantage at the close of the first day. But for the fine generalship of George H. Thomas the Union forces would have been destroyed. Both armies were too exhausted to renew the fight on the morrow, but on the 2d of January it raged with awful fury, Bragg being obliged in the end to retreat. The killed and wounded on each side numbered about nine thousand.

Meanwhile, Grant was pressing the siege of Vicksburg, in order to open the Mississippi, but

when the year closed the Confederates still held him at bay. It was in March that the famous fight took place between the *Monitor* and the *Merrimac*. The Norfolk navy yard had been burned in 1861, to prevent its falling into the hands of the Confederates, who raised the frigate *Merrimac*, sheathed her with iron, and renamed her the *Virginia*, although she is generally called by her former name. She steamed down from Hampton Roads on the 8th of March and attacked the sloop-of-war *Cumberland*, whose broadsides glanced off like peas from the invulnerable mail of the *Merrimac*. The metal snout of the ironclad gouged a huge hole in the side of the *Cumberland* and sent her to the bottom. To escape a similar fate the *Congress* ran ashore, but she was hammered by the *Merrimac* until her crew was obliged to surrender.

That night the little ironclad *Monitor* arrived from New York, and when the *Merrimac* steamed out again from Hampton Roads to complete her terrifying work, the smaller vessel dashed forward to meet her. Then took place the first battle between ironclads, which made a revolution in naval warfare. This fight may fairly be said to have been indecisive. On its conclusion the *Merrimac*

returned to Norfolk, where she was blown up some months later, when the Confederates evacuated the city. Still later the *Monitor* foundered off Cape Hatteras.

The most effective work of the second year of the war was done by the navy. Roanoke Island, Newbern, and Beaufort were captured in the spring, as was the city of New Orleans, the commercial metropolis of the Confederacy. The powerful fleet which accomplished this was commanded by Captain David G. Farragut, one of the greatest naval heroes of history. He met fire-ships, the attack of a formidable iron-clad, and the cannonade of all the forts; but he plowed his way to the city and received its surrender on April 25th.

The hardest of the Union campaigns was that which was pressed against Richmond. In April, General George B. McClellan, at the head of a magnificent army of one hundred thousand men, began his march against the capital of the Southern Confederacy. Landing at Fort Monroe, he advanced toward Yorktown, but paused when he found an insignificant Confederate force in front of it. It was so few in numbers that he could easily have defeated it, but he began regular

siege operations in pestilential swamps where his men died by the hundred. The delay gave the Confederates time to complete their defenses



General Robert E. Lee.

at Richmond, and finally to take the aggressive against McClellan. After a series of desperate battles, he was forced back to Harrison's Landing,

where he was under the protection of his gun-boats. It is a fact not generally known that McClellan's army would have been captured had not important orders from General Lee failed to reach General Magruder. The campaign against Richmond ended in failure, and caused great discouragement in the North, but President Lincoln called for three hundred thousand more volunteers, and made preparations to prosecute the war more vigorously than ever.

The dissatisfaction with McClellan was so strong that his army was placed under the command of General Pope, who was in charge of the defenses at Washington. Lee set out to crush Pope before McClellan could reach him with the troops which were to be turned over to Pope. While holding Pope in front of him, Lee sent that thunderbolt of war, "Stonewall Jackson," around the right flank of the Union army. Pope wheeled about and was confident of overwhelming Jackson, but Lee launched the main Confederate army against him, and Pope was driven in confusion behind the fortifications at Washington.

When wreck and ruin threatened, the Government turned to McClellan and placed him once

more in command. He started in pursuit of Lee, who had crossed the Potomac and was in Maryland. The two armies met at Antietam (an-tee'-tam) Creek, near Sharpsburg, where a drawn battle, the bloodiest of the whole war, was fought on September 16th and 17th. On the night of the 17th, Lee recrossed the Potomac without molestation, and the Army of the Potomac, a few weeks later, entered Virginia.

The Government's patience with McClellan was exhausted, and he was superseded by General Ambrose E. Burnside, who, while a good corps commander, was a failure when placed at the head of an army, where he had to plan and carry out campaigns. He crossed the Rappahannock at Fredericksburg, and, on December 13th, attacked the Confederates, whose position was as impregnable as a mountain wall. He drove his brave men against the fortifications again and again, until his dead numbered twelve hundred, his wounded ten thousand, and the missing three thousand. Then he gave up what he never should have attempted, and recrossed the Rappahannock. The year closed amid disaster and general gloom on the part of the friends of the Union.

There was the best ground, however, for hope. It may be said that the South had every available man in the field, while in the North there remained hundreds of thousands who could be brought forward when necessary. The national Government comprehended the magnitude of the work, and was as resolute as ever to press the war till the Union should be fully restored. It had the money and means, and these were sure to win in the end, if the Unionists did not lose heart because of the appalling loss of life and the vast expenditure of money.

Let us glance briefly at events in the Southwest. You remember that when 1863 opened the tremendous battle of Murfreesboro' was in progress, and that on the second day of the new year it ended with the retreat of the Confederates. Rosecrans occupied Murfreesboro', but waited until June before marching against Bragg, who, in order to preserve his communications, evacuated Chattanooga early in September. Rosecrans was following slowly, his army strung out for a distance of forty miles and with no thought of danger, when Bragg wheeled and assailed him with the utmost fury. The fighting lasted all day without

either side gaining a decisive advantage, but on the second day Longstreet, who had been sent thither by General Lee, drove the Union right wing and center from the field. The whole army would have been destroyed but for General Thomas, who held the left wing immovable against the terrific charges that were hurled upon him again and again. It was there that Thomas earned the name of the "Rock of Chickamauga," by which he will always be remembered. Chickamauga was a Confederate victory, but Thomas held his ground until nightfall, when he fell back to Chattanooga.

The situation was so critical that General Grant hastened to Chattanooga, where Thomas, who had succeeded Rosecrans, was in danger of starvation, owing to the investment of the city by the Confederates. With the aid of reënforcements which were hurried from the army of the Potomac, and other points, communications with Thomas were reestablished. Then followed the "Battle Above the Clouds," which was a Union victory, since Bragg's army was defeated and the occupation of Chattanooga made secure. Thus the way was opened to the core of the Confederacy.

It was necessary to silence the formidable batteries of Vicksburg before the Mississippi could be cleared to commerce. Grant had been trying to do this for months, and though often baffled, he never relaxed his purpose. The Confederate batteries extended for miles along the river, and, convinced at last that he could not capture them from the north, Grant moved his army to the west side of the river, while his gunboats ran past the batteries amid a storm of shot and shell which it seemed must sink every one of them. Johnston was pressing to the relief of Vicksburg, but Grant, on May 1st, attacked and defeated him at Port Gibson. Then Johnston set out to assist Pemberton, but Grant drove his army between the two, thus shutting Pemberton in Vicksburg and keeping out Johnston, who was defeated at Jackson on May 14th.

It was evident that Vicksburg could be taken only by siege, and Grant, therefore, besieged it. The garrison held out with great bravery, but the time at last arrived when it became a choice between starvation and submission. Pemberton decided to accept the latter alternative, and on the 4th of July, 1863, he surrendered his army of

more than twenty thousand men and an immense amount of arms and ammunition. When Vicksburg fell, Port Hudson could no longer hold out and yielded a few days later. Thus the Mississippi was opened from its source to the Gulf of Mexico.

After Burnside's disastrous failure as commander of the Army of the Potomac, he was succeeded by "Fighting Joe Hooker." When Longstreet was sent to the Southwest with reënforcements by General Lee, the latter was left with only about sixty thousand men. This made Hooker's army so much larger than Lee's that he advanced against him, crossing the Rappahannock several miles above Fredericksburg. In this campaign, Lee completely outgeneraled Hooker, who was driven back across the river, and the movement against Richmond ended once more in failure. The Confederates, however, lost one of their most valuable leaders, in the person of Stonewall Jackson, who through a strange fatality was shot by his own men.

X.

OUR FLAG FROM GETTYSBURG TO APPOMATTOX.



SO brilliant had been the success of General Lee that the Confederate authorities determined to invade the North for a second time. The South had drunk deep of the bitter cup, and she meant to make her enemies do the same.

General Lee, at the head of the finest army the Southern Confederacy ever put in the field, swept down the Shenandoah, and crossing the Potomac, marched to Chambersburg, a town in western Pennsylvania. General George G. Meade, who had succeeded Hooker in the command of the Army of the Potomac, followed the eastern side of the Blue Ridge and South Mountain ranges. The vanguards of the two great armies met at the town of Gettysburg on the 1st of July, where was fought the decisive battle of the Civil



From a recent photograph.

Battlefield of Gettysburg.

War and one of the most tremendous conflicts of modern times.

At the opening the Confederates gained the advantage, and before nightfall drove back the Union advance. The great struggle was to take place on the morrow, and every soldier in both armies knew it. All through the sultry moonlit night reënforcements continued to reach the Union army, and the hours were spent in assigning them to the positions for the next day. You must remember that the men on both sides had fought in so many battles that all were seasoned veterans. Their officers were highly trained, skillful, and experienced, and never had two such mighty hosts confronted each other on the American continent. Could they have united their energies, they would have been able to sweep from one end of Europe to the other, for no armies could have been marshaled powerful enough to check or turn them aside.

The fighting on the second day was terrific beyond description. The Confederates, glowing and confident over their past successes, carried works at both ends of the Union lines, and Lee was so encouraged that he determined to press the struggle to the finish. Longstreet forced his

way to Cemetery Ridge, and then was bloodily repulsed by Hancock, but the Confederate Ewell was so successful on the Union right that General Meade and his officers were alarmed for the fate of the army on the morrow. The Union trembled in the balance. If Lee should be successful, it would be destroyed and the Southern Confederacy established.

Early on the morning of the third day a furious assault upon Ewell drove him out of the Federal works. A lull of several hours followed, during which Lee made his preparations for the decisive assault. They were completed by one o'clock, when from Seminary Ridge, opposite Meade's center, one hundred and forty-five cannon opened against the Union lines on Cemetery Ridge, which replied with eighty cannon. It is a common practice in war to begin with such a bombardment in order to confuse the enemy and clear the way for a charge. For two hours the mountains and valleys shook under the most volcanic outburst this country had ever known. Then, when the crash and roar slackened, and the vast cloud of sulphurous smoke slowly lifted, a double column of gray Confederates, numbering fifteen thousand,

the very flower of their army, emerged to view. From end to end of the long, thin line the distance was more than a mile. The wings were guarded with a swarm of skirmishers in front, and the double line advanced with even, steady step, straight for Cemetery Ridge, where the Unionists were waiting for them to come within effective range.

Not often is one permitted to look upon so thrilling a picture. The muskets gleamed in the hot sunlight, and the grim heroes marched with the precision of troops on parade. They were a mile distant when they started, and never slackened that splendid step which caused a murmur of admiration to run through the thousands of Federals who were gazing upon the wonderful sight. When they had come within a quarter of a mile, a hundred cannon opened fire and tore ragged gaps in their ranks. The Confederates instantly closed up, leaving their dead and wounded lying on the plain, and stepped forward more briskly than before. Then they broke into the "double-quick," and the Union infantry poured a tempest of volleys among them. The supports were scattered, but Pickett, the com-

mander, and his comrades leaped forward, planted their battle-flags on the breastworks, and bayoneted the cannoneers at their guns. Then they dashed forward to the second and stronger Union line, on the crest of the ridge, where a cy-



General Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg.

clone of shot burst upon them from the front, the right, and the left. Pickett saw that a few minutes in such a flaming crater would not leave a man alive, and shouted the order to fall back.

Pickett's charge at Gettysburg was one of the grandest exhibitions of the whole Civil War, and

in unflinching heroism has never been surpassed by any exploit in history. That long, double line lost three-fourths of its men, fourteen field officers, and three generals. The killed, wounded, and captured at the battle of Gettysburg, on both sides, reached the appalling total of fifty thousand. Both armies were exhausted by the stupendous struggle, and Lee, after a day's rest, recrossed the Potomac, and the Union army made no attempt to follow.

As I have said, the battle of Gettysburg was the turning-point of the war. Never again was the Confederacy able to marshal so formidable an army, and never again had it so fair a promise of success. It received its mortal wound on the 3d of July, 1863, and from that time forward the fighting, as one of its leaders expressed it, was for terms.

President Lincoln saw that a vigorous prosecution of hostilities must soon bring the end. The Mississippi was opened the day after the victory at Gettysburg, and one of the chief campaigns of the war was accomplished. The Confederates had a number of cruisers on the ocean, which destroyed a great deal of our shipping, but this produced no

effect on the war itself. The blockade was rigid, except at a few points where the Confederates were able to send out their swift steamers loaded with cotton, and to bring them back with valuable supplies.

By this time General U. S. Grant had shown himself to be the ablest military leader of the National forces. Early in 1864, therefore, he was made Lieutenant-General and given sole charge of all the Union armies and campaigns. His plan was to push forward at all points and to keep unremittingly at work. Heretofore, when the Confederates were threatened in one quarter, reënforcements were drawn from another which just then was not in danger. If the latter quarter was threatened, more troops were hurried thither, but, of course, if all the Confederate defences were attacked at the same time, the defenders could not reënforce one another. Each force must fight its own battles, and, since the Union armies were much more numerous and better equipped, the wisdom of General Grant's campaign is evident.

The time came when the Confederates had only two formidable armies in the field. One was

in Virginia, and Grant took upon himself the task of conquering that, for the Confederacy itself rested on its muskets; the second and weaker army was in the Southwest, under command of General "Joe" Johnston. The plan was that, at the beginning of May, 1864, Grant should open his campaign against Lee, and at the same time General Sherman should assail Johnston, and, having begun, each Union leader was to keep hammering to the end. Let us glance first at the campaign of General Sherman.

Johnston had fifty thousand men at Dalton, Georgia, against whom Sherman advanced with a much larger army. Johnston fell back, fighting with much skill, and now and then delivering an effective blow against Sherman. President Davis, of the Southern Confederacy, superseded Johnston with General Hood, who had less ability, but was a reckless, headlong fighter. Sherman drove him out of Atlanta and occupied the city in the beginning of September. Then he swung loose from his communications, and at the head of more than sixty thousand men set out for Savannah, on the Atlantic coast, three hundred miles away. He marched through the heart of the Confederacy,

where until then no hostile foot had trod. The Confederates could not muster an army to check him, and on the 20th of December he occupied Savannah, where an immense amount of supplies was obtained. After resting his men, he marched northward along the coast in order to establish communication with General Grant, to whom we must now return.

Following his own plan, General Grant began the last campaign against Richmond in the beginning of May, 1864. General Meade was in immediate command of the Army of the Potomac, which greatly outnumbered the Confederate forces under General Lee. As you will remember, the Confederacy was so exhausted that it could not replace the men lost in battle. Our Government kept Grant supplied with all the soldiers he needed, and he needed a great many.

It was a prodigious task that he had given himself, for Lee was still powerful and handled his men with masterly skill. The two armies encountered in the dismal section known as The Wilderness, where for two weeks the fighting was of the most desperate nature, with frightful losses on both sides. More than once the dead lay

piled three deep, and the combatants, in charging back and forth, trod on the bodies of their dead comrades without being able for many rods to touch ground. There is still preserved in Washington the stump of a tree, a foot and a half in diameter, which was severed not by heavy shot, but by bullets! One cannot picture more terrific battling than that at the "Bloody Angle," which I shall not attempt to describe to you.

Nothing, however, could check the resolution of Grant, of whom his enemies said that he never knew when he was whipped. He kept flanking Lee, who continually fell back so as to throw himself across the road to Richmond. Grant's most fearful repulse was at Cold Harbor, where he lost thousands of men in the space of a few minutes. This disaster caused him to change the plan of campaign. He crossed the James and made his advance upon Petersburg to the south of Richmond. An attack on Petersburg, June 16th, failed, and regular siege was laid to the town, which was in progress when the year closed.

On February 5, 1865, General Lee was made commander-in-chief of all the Confederate forces. He immediately restored General Johnston to the

command of the troops in Georgia, South Carolina, and Florida. Sherman, on his northward march, captured Columbia on the 17th of February, and the city was burned. Charleston, which had withstood every attack by sea, was evacuated the next day. Johnston offered all the resistance he could, but Sherman's army was overpowering. Placing Schofield in command, Sherman went to City Point, where, on the 27th of March, he met Grant, and the two agreed upon their plan to close the war.

Grant pressed Lee with remorseless energy. The Confederate army, though dwindled in numbers, fought with unflinching heroism, but the hour was fast drawing nigh when all hope was to vanish. Lee's lines were forced, and he telegraphed to President Davis that he could hold out only a brief while longer. On April 2d, Richmond was abandoned by the authorities, and soon afterward the Union forces entered the capital of the Southern Confederacy. Lee still held out, fighting as he retreated, until April 9th, when he met General Grant under a flag of truce at Appomattox Court House, and surrendered what was left of the once magnificent Army of Virginia. Grant treated the

prisoners with great generosity, all being paroled and allowed to go home, while the Boys in Blue filled the haversacks of the Boys in Gray with the food of which they stood in sore need.

This marked the end of the Civil War. The Southern Confederacy had been upheld for months on the bayonets of Lee's army, and when they were withdrawn the final fall and crash followed. General Johnston surrendered his army on the 26th of April, receiving the same generous terms that were granted to Lee and his men. Before the end of May all the scattered forces of the Confederacy had made their submission.

You have read of the sad death of President Lincoln, who was assassinated on the evening of April 14th, while in attendance at a theater in Washington. His slayer was a half insane actor, who was pursued by a squad of cavalry and shot down in a barn, which had been set on fire by his pursuers. The death of the President was one of the greatest misfortunes that ever befell our country, not only for the North but for the South, which, had his life been spared, would have received far more humane treatment from

him than any other man or body of men would have dared to give.

The most impressive feature of the great struggle was the perfect reconciliation that followed its close. The opposing armies melted away like snow in the sun; the Boys in Blue and in Gray mingled in the comradeship which all brave men feel for one another; lasting friendships were formed by the leaders as well as the soldiers on both sides; northern capital helped to develop the fine resources of the South; not a single person who had fought for the Lost Cause was punished therefor; all shook hands across the "bloody chasm," and, as you know, during our recent war with Spain, more than one ex-Confederate displayed his old-time heroism and skill in the armies of the United States. The reconciliation was absolute and complete. The struggle had been long and was bravely fought to the end, which brought a perfect restoration of the Union, to continue, with all the States indivisible, to the end of time.

Thousands of the old soldiers still remain with us, and we shall love and reverence their memory always. The gray-haired Confederates and Union boys often exchange visits, and we can appreciate

their pleasure in talking over the times when, without clearly understanding why, they strove so hard to remove each other from the earth. Sometimes they do not wholly agree as to which side got the better of a certain "argument," and it is amusing to hear their discussions, which are always good natured and tinged with mutual respect. If you could sit down at some of these gatherings and listen to the exchange of reminiscences, you would hear many thrilling stories. It would take many volumes to tell them all, but you will be interested by a few which I assure you are truthful in every respect.

The first infantry that went into the battle of Gettysburg was the Iron Brigade, of which the Twenty-fourth Regiment, Michigan Volunteers, formed a part. It carried a State flag presented to it by the citizens of Detroit. When the action was over the flag had been shot into fluttering rags. Unable to make use of it again, the soldiers cut it into bits, which were distributed among the members of the regiment. Thus it is that you will find to-day in many Michigan families a small piece of faded silk which no amount of money can buy.

In the Fifth New Hampshire one man out of every five was killed. Captain James B. Perry, being mortally wounded, told a brother officer that he would be content to die if he could once more look upon the beloved flag. It was brought to him, but his eyesight had gone, and he could only clutch its folds with trembling hands, kiss it, and then, with a murmured farewell, he passed away. During the battle seven men had been killed or wounded with the flag in their hands.

I have spoken of the frightful repulse which the Union army suffered at Cold Harbor, when Grant was fighting his way to Richmond. Some time previous, the young color-sergeant, William H. Porch, carried the flag to the rear at Drewry's Bluff. He did so in obedience to orders, but not knowing this, some of his comrades taunted him with cowardice. He keenly felt the unjust charge. When the Union troops reached the second line of rifle pits at Cold Harbor, one of his friends called to him, "Now, Billy, show them you are no coward." The bank in front was swept by a hurricane of bullets, but without a second's hesitation, the youth leaped upon it and instantly fell mortally wounded. With his last

breath he flung his arms around the flag and pitched forward among his enemies, and not one of his comrades dared to follow him.

You know that it is always considered a dis-



"Old Abe" in Battle.

grace for a regiment to lose its flag, and the rule was that when this happened the regiment should not be allowed to carry another for the space of three months; but the circumstances under which this flag had been lost were so ex-



Confederate "Stars and Bars."



Battle Flag of the Confederacy.



Revenue Ensign.



Church Pennant.



Light House Service.



The Admiral's Flag.



The Vice Admiral's Flag.

ceptional and honorable that a special order was issued from headquarters, allowing the regiment to carry a new flag at once.

The soldiers were fond of pets, the most remarkable of which was a live eagle, called "Old Abe," carried by the Eighth Wisconsin Regiment throughout most of the war. His perch was usually on a war shield, mounted on the top of a staff, the bird being held by a cord tied to one of his feet. During the three years that "Old Abe" was in the service, he was in twenty-two battles and thirty skirmishes, and was wounded three times. After the war he became the pet and ward of Wisconsin. P. T. Barnum, the great showman, offered \$20,000 for the old hero, but nothing would induce the State to part with him, though it sold a good many of his feathers, when he shed them, for ten dollars apiece. The sale of a little pamphlet giving the history of this remarkable bird netted more than \$16,000 for the wounded soldiers. "Old Abe" died peacefully in 1881, and after being stuffed, was placed in the war museum at the State Capitol, Madison, Wisconsin.

The same intrepid spirit was shown by the

Confederates as by the Unionists, and no one can withhold admiration of the heroism and sacrifices of the Boys in Gray.

One of the many brave young Southerners who gave up life for the cherished cause, was John Pelham, chief of Stuart's artillery. He was born in Alabama, but Virginia loved him—her brave defender—as one of her own sons. He was so fearless that he won from Lee these words of highest praise: "The gallant Pelham." He was so modest that he blushed and stammered as the loved commander addressed him.

Hardly more than a boy, he was ever eager to be in the forefront of battle. Once when the Federal forces crossed the Rappahannock and seemed bound to carry everything before them, he left his guns to join the fierce charge which turned the tide and won the day for the South; but he fell in the midst of the wild rush with a smile upon his face, and before he could know of the victory bought with the price of his brave blood and that of many a gallant comrade.

His memory is cherished in story and verse. We quote James Randall's stirring lines:

“ Just as the spring came laughing through the strife,
With all its gorgeous cheer,
In the bright April of historic life,
Fell the great cannoneer.

“ The wondrous lulling of a hero's breath
His bleeding country weeps ;
Hushed in the alabaster arms of Death,
Our young Marcellus sleeps.

“ Nobler and grander than the child of Rome,
Curbing his chariot steeds,
The knightly scion of a Southern home
Dazzled the land with deeds.

“ Gentlest and bravest in the battle brunt,
The champion of the truth,
He bore his banner to the very front
Of our immortal youth.

“ A clang of sabres 'mid Virginian snow,
The fiery pang of shells,
And there's a wail of immemorial woe
In Alabama dells.

“ The pennon drops that led the sacred band
Along the crimson field ;
The meteor blade sinks from the nerveless hand
Over the spotless shield.

“ We gazed and gazed upon that beauteous face,
While round the lips and eyes,
Couched in the marble slumber, flashed the grace
Of a divine surprise.

“ Oh, mother of a blessed soul on high !
Thy tears may soon be shed ;
Think of thy boy with princes of the sky
Among the Southern dead.

“ How must he smile on this dull world beneath,
Fevered with swift renown ;
He with the martyr's amaranthine wreath
Twining the victor's crown.”

A poem that was greatly admired in the North as well as in the South was “All Quiet Along the Potomac To-night,” claimed by Lamar Fontaine as his composition, though this claim is disputed and the evidence seems to be in favor of Miss Beers, of New York City. Mr. Fontaine was more remarkable for his daring than for his poetical ability. General Charles P. Mattocks, of Portland, Maine, says it was Fontaine who in May, 1863, undertook the seemingly foolhardy, but nevertheless successful, exploit of carrying a supply of percussion caps from the Confederate General Loring's headquarters at Jackson, Mississippi, to the beleaguered General Pemberton in Vicksburg, when that commander was entirely out of caps, and, consequently, could not fire a gun. Fontaine, who was a Mississippian, had several horses shot under him, and his clothing was re-

peatedly pierced by bullets, but he went through the ordeal unscathed. He was the hero of twenty-seven hard fought battles, and came out of the war minus a leg, and with other evidences of his perilous experiences.

It appears that shortly after the first battle of Bull Run, in which Fontaine, as a private in Company K (the Burt Rifles), Eighteenth Mississippi Regiment, took part, he was transferred to the Second Virginia Cavalry, and at the time we have in mind was doing picket duty just above the head of an island near the Seneca Falls on the Potomac. It was in August, 1861, one month after Bull Run. So many of the Confederates had gone home on furlough that the picket lines were thin, and extended far along the river front. In that section of the two army lines, the pickets on both sides came to an understanding that there should be no firing at each other while on picket duty. Fontaine says that the treacherous violation of this agreement by a Union soldier inspired the poem, "All Quiet Along the Potomac Tonight." Fontaine's most intimate and cherished friend was a married man named John Moore, who idolized his wife and their two beautiful

children. The two soldiers were always together, whether on picket or guard duty. The following account of the incident is in Fontaine's own words:

"We had to stand on post six hours at a time. That night I took my stand at six o'clock, and Moore retired to rest. The nights were chilly, and we usually kept some fire burning. There was a small spring of water close by, and a large fallen pine-tree that I used to sit on and rest at times, after walking my beat, and I have frequently stopped at the spring and bathed my face when the dreary monotony of the still night had a tendency to lull me to sleep. As soon as I found that midnight had arrived, I stepped to the fire and threw on some pine knots, and roused Moore to take my place.

"He rose slowly, picked up his gun, stepped to the fire, and stretched himself, as a sleepy soldier will, and gaped and yawned; and while his arms were extended, and his hand grasping the barrel of his gun, there was a flash across the river, and the whiz of a bullet, and he sank to the earth with a hole just above his eye (on the left side), from which flowed a dark crimson tide.

Not a word, not a groan escaped him. I removed his remains from near the fire, where he had fallen. As I did so, my eyes fell on the telegraphic column of a newspaper, which was headed, "All Quiet Along the Potomac To-night," and oh how truthful it was! It was certainly all quiet with me, and with him whom I loved as a brother."

At the battle of Manassas Fontaine was so severely wounded by a cannon shot that he was unfitted for infantry service. Unwilling to be discharged, he procured a transfer to the Second Regiment, Virginia Cavalry. General Ewell stated in his official report that near Winchester, in company with a friend (the private John Moore already referred to), he performed a feat without parallel in the annals of the war. These two young men, unassisted and alone, charged and captured a piece of artillery manned by eight of the enemy. Near Strasburg an exploding shell blew his horse to atoms and broke Fontaine's thigh. While being carried from the field, another shell wounded him in the hip. Soon after, when lying under a tree, a minie-ball penetrated the back of his neck and passed down

near the spine, where the surgeons could not find it. His right leg and side remained paralyzed for a long time, but he again joined his company, performing military duty with his crutches tied to his saddle. In this condition he fought in seven battles. To secure information for General R. H. Anderson, while the enemy were shelling Warrenton Springs, Fontaine volunteered, swam the Rappahannock, surprised three armed pickets, and brought them across the river to the general, who gave the crutched hero a certificate complimenting his skill and gallantry. At the battle of Hazel River, a minie-ball broke one of his crutches, and an enemy's riderless horse ran against him and broke the other. In the second day's fight at Manassas, his horse was killed under him; another was shot at Germantown; and while pursuing the enemy a pistol shot penetrated his cap, grazed his temple, and knocked him from his steed. He was now pronounced incompetent to perform military duty, and acted as volunteer nurse in hospitals, during which time he captured six prisoners and killed many of the enemy. In the course of his almost incredible career, he had six horses killed under him during battle.

The following account of the evolution or development of the Confederate flag is furnished by Dr. H. A. White, author of "Robert E. Lee":

The "Stars and Bars" was the flag first adopted in 1861 by the Confederacy of seven States. The two outside bars were red, and the central bar was white. The field of the union was blue, and it was occupied by seven white five-pointed stars. The colors were the same as those of the old flag of the United States. On the afternoon of July 21, 1861, while Early's brigade was marching from the Confederate right to aid the Confederate left, Early's flag was folded so closely about the flagstaff, in the still air, that Beauregard could not, at first, decide whether it was a Federal or a Confederate flag. After some time a slight breeze blew the folds of the flag away from the staff, and then Beauregard recognized the stars and bars of the Confederate brigade. After the battle at Manassas, Johnston and Beauregard agreed upon a flag to be used by the Confederate regiments upon the field of battle. This was "The Battle Flag," or the Southern Cross. It was not the official flag of the Confederate States, but the banner carried by the soldiers into battle. It was

the union of the official flag, with a red field crossed by two bars of blue. These bars had narrow borders of white, and they contained thirteen white stars, each star having five points.

On the 1st of May, 1863, the Confederate Congress declared that the flag of the Confederate States should be as follows: "The field to be white, the length double the width of the flag, with the union (now used as the battle flag) to be a square of two-thirds the width of the flag, having the ground red; thereon a broad saltier of blue, bordered with white and emblazoned with white mullets, or five-pointed stars, corresponding in number to that of the Confederate States." The number of stars was thirteen, for the reason that Missouri (November, 1861) and Kentucky (December, 1861) were formally declared to be members of the Southern Confederacy. When this flag fell in folds around the flagstaff, only the white color was seen. It looked like a flag of truce. Another change was, therefore, necessary. On the 4th of March, 1865, the Confederate Congress adopted the following flag: "The width shall be two-thirds of its length, with the union (now used as the battle flag) to be in width three-fifths

of the width of the flag, and so proportioned as to leave the length of the field on the side of the union twice the width of the field below it; it shall have the ground red, and a broad blue saltier thereon, bordered with white and emblazoned with mullets, or five-pointed stars, corresponding in number to that of the Confederate States [13]. The field of the flag shall be white, except the outer half from the union, which shall be a red bar extending the width of the flag."

XI.

SPECIAL FLAGS, SIGNALLING, AND FLAG LORE.



IN addition to our national emblem, which is carried by both the army and navy, there is a multitude of other flags—flags for each branch of the Government, for high officials, and for different occasions. Each one recalls in some measure the Stars and Stripes. Some are red and white, some white and blue, some have the stars, and some the stripes.

The President and Vice-President of the United States have a special flag of their own, which is shown whenever they enter or leave an army post, go on board a national ship, or are present at any public celebration.

The President's flag, which has been occasion-

ally used for many years, was simply the coat-of-arms of the United States on a blue field. The new design, lately adopted, has a sunburst, circular in form, above the head of the eagle, with the rays radiating from the group of stars; a pure white eagle, its feathers strongly outlined in black, and the constellation in white, with the rays in heavy stitching on a blue ground. The flag for outdoor use is of bunting, fourteen by ten and a half feet, and of heavy taffeta silk, gold thread and embroidery for interior decoration. At sea, the President's flag is displayed on the mainmast of a vessel when the President is on board.

The President has a smaller flag, also, which is called his "colors." It is six and one-half by four feet, on a staff ten feet long. By an official ruling, made in November, 1902, the shield on the center of the eagle contains seven white and six red bars, which is the reverse of the national flag. The edges of the banner are trimmed with silver and gold knotted fringe three inches wide. The cord is eight and one-half feet long, of red, white, and blue silk, with tassels at the ends.

Some day you may see the President visit a

military post or camp. Then you will notice that his flag and colors are carried before him in the procession. On these occasions the band always plays the President's March, with three trumpet flourishes, or three ruffles on the drum. The President's flag is entitled to a salute of twenty-one guns.

The Secretary of War has silk colors mounted on a staff. This banner is made of scarlet silk, and is five feet six inches fly and four feet four inches hoist. It has embroidered upon it a golden-brown American eagle, and in each corner a white star. A flag is also provided for this officer. The design is similar to that of the colors. The flag is made of scarlet bunting, and measures twelve feet in length and six feet four inches in width.

The army posts are furnished with several different kinds of flags by the Government, all made of bunting of American manufacture. There is the post flag (twenty by sixteen), which is supplied to all posts garrisoned by troops. This is only hoisted in pleasant weather. For stormy days they have a storm flag (eight feet by four feet two inches). Then, too, there is a large gar-

risson flag, measuring thirty-six feet in length by twenty in width. This flag is kept for holiday use, and other festive days.

The colors carried by regiments of infantry and artillery and the battalions of engineers in battle, or on occasions of ceremony, are made of silk, and are five feet six inches long and four feet four inches wide. They are mounted on staffs. The cavalry regiments also have silken colors, mounted on lances, for parade use.

Yellow is the color for cavalry flags, with the American eagle and coat-of-arms as a device—blue for the infantry, and red for the artillery. Each regiment carries a national flag, and State flags also are generally borne by the militia. The castle is always the distinguishing emblem of the engineers. The various divisions of the army are provided with cheaper bunting flags called "service" colors and standards for use in drills and marches.

Silken and service guidons are supplied to the cavalry and light artillery. They are swallow-tailed flags and quite small. Those carried by the cavalry are formed with two horizontal stripes of equal width, the upper stripe red, with the

number of the regiment in white; the lower white, with the letter of the troop in red. Artillery guidons are scarlet, bearing in the center two crossed cannon, with the number of the regiment above, and letter of the battery below, all in yellow. Indian scouts are provided with scarlet colored guidons cut square. These guidons have two crossed arrows in white. The name "U. S. Scouts" is above the arrows, and the letter of the troop and name of the department to which it belongs below.

Besides all these flags, colors, and guidons belonging to regiments, the larger sections of the army have distinguishing flags. Regiments are grouped together into brigades, brigades into divisions, and divisions into army corps. The pennants of the different sections are nearly all red, white, or blue, or some combination of these colors. These flags bear a representation of the corps symbol. Yellow often appears in the cavalry pennants.

The corps symbol is some simple device, generally made of felt. When going into battle, the soldiers wear their corps symbol on their caps. Officers wear this badge on the left breast. At

the opening of the Spanish-American War, the War Department changed the badges for the entire army, because the North and South were to fight together in that war, and the War Department thought it wise to destroy the badges that the North had won when fighting against the South.

In the United States army a guard is attached to each infantry battalion, which has charge of the national and regimental colors. It is composed of a color-guard and seven corporals, who are selected from among the bravest men. It has always been considered a noble and honorable service to carry the flag, but there will never be the same opportunities to show courage and daring in the guardianship of the colors in the future as there have been in the past. Even now the custom of fighting under a flag is being abandoned in several European countries. Not very long ago the flag of an English regiment was laid up in Litchfield Cathedral. On this occasion a letter from Lord Wolseley, commander-in-chief of the English army, was read. In it he said :

“In future it would be madness and a crime to order any man to carry colors into action. You might quite as well order him to be assassinated. The Germans carry

the poles on which the colors used to be so that they attract no notice in action. We have had most reluctantly to abandon a practice to which we attached great importance, and which under just conditions of fighting was invaluable in keeping alive the regimental spirit on which our British troops depend so much."

An exercise called "colors" is common to all divisions of the army and navy. At ten minutes to eight in the morning the first call is sounded; then the guard falls out, two non-commissioned officers fasten the flags to the halliards, three ruffles are given on the drum, the bugles sound, and the guard presents arms, and stays in that position till the flag is at the top of the pole. The same exercise is repeated when the flag is taken down in the evening. In the army a guard consisting of a non-commissioned officer and two privates is appointed for this service.

The flag should always be hoisted or lowered from the leeward side of the staff, and the ropes should be held by two persons to guard against the flag touching the ground, through the slipping of the ropes or other accident. On board the vessels of the navy the flag is never allowed to touch the deck. Whenever any one comes on the quarterdeck, he touches his cap as a salute to the

colors. When the army is in camp the flag is placed on a line of stacked rifles, called the "color line," and whoever passes it during the day is obliged to salute by touching his cap. Whenever a detachment or military parade passes the flag, it is saluted. To neglect to salute is a military offense.

The idea of showing public grief by placing flags at half-mast is very ancient. In Rome, at the funeral of great personages, the soldiers carried the ensigns inverted. In a modern funeral procession the flags are draped. The custom of flying flags at half-mast as a mark of mourning and respect grew out of the old military and naval practice, still in use, especially in the navy, of lowering the flag in time of war as a sign of submission. The vanquished always lowered his flag, while the victor fluttered his own above it from the same staff. To lower a flag, therefore, is a token of respect to one's superior, and a token of mourning and distress. On the death of a soldier the flag of a military post is shown at half-mast. On Decoration Day the flag should not be shown at half-mast. On that day we are honoring the patriots long since passed away. It is not the

day of their burial, but a holiday appointed to honor them. When the flag is displayed at half-mast, it is lowered to that position from the top of the staff. It is afterward hoisted to the top before it is finally taken down.

A vessel of the navy first flies a flag when it is commissioned as a government ship. The national ensign, as we learned at the beginning of this chapter, is in use in the navy as well as the army. The Union Jack is also flown by all the vessels of the navy. It is recognized everywhere as exclusively a ship's flag. The Union Jack is the blue field of our national flag spangled with stars. Men-of-war are provided with flags of foreign countries to be used in salutes. Our ships now carry the flags of no less than forty-three nations.

The Secretary of the Navy has a special flag entitled to a salute of fifteen guns. The different grades of admirals each have a flag. It is very seldom that we have any higher office in the navy than that of rear-admiral. David Glasgow Farragut was the first man in the navy to be appointed a vice-admiral, and also the first to be made an admiral. We often have several rear-admirals at one time. During the Civil War

there were as many as nine. Since Farragut's time we have had no admiral until Dewey was appointed to that office after the battle of Manila. The admiral's flag is entitled to a salute of seventeen guns, the vice-admiral's to fifteen guns, and a rear-admiral's to thirteen guns.

When several rear-admirals meet, the senior officer flies a blue flag with white stars, the next in rank a red flag with white stars, and all others a white flag with blue stars. When they separate each resumes the blue flag.

The grade of commodore on the active list has been abolished. Those who now hold that rank belong to the retired list. It was the custom when commodores met, to arrange their flags so as to show their terms of service—the blue for the senior, the red for the second, while the rest flew white flags. Each, however, flew the blue flag when no other commodore was present.

You remember how the Dutch Admiral Van Tromp hoisted a broom at the masthead to show that he meant to sweep the English from the sea, and how the English admiral raised a horsewhip over his vessel to show that he meant to whip

the Dutch. Well, ever since that time, in our own navy, as well as those of other nations, captains have flown a long pennant called a coach whip—some of them more than seventy feet in length.

The less important naval flags are the convoy, pilot, compass, guard, despatch, powder, and quarantine flags; there is also a general recall flag, a cornet flag, and a church pennant.

The owners of pleasure yachts often have them licensed by the Secretary of the Treasury; they are especially apt to do this if they are going abroad, as the license gives them many privileges, and is often a protection. All licensed yachts fly the American yacht ensign.

The United States revenue flag is always displayed over custom houses by the United States, and over buildings belonging to the Treasury Department, as well as on board vessels appointed to collect the customs. This flag has sixteen perpendicular stripes, alternate red and white. The union of the ensign bears the arms of the United States in dark blue on a white ground. The stripes represent the number of States in the Union when this flag was first adopted. The pennant of the revenue vessels was similar in design

to their flag until 1871, when the eagle of the pennant was replaced by thirteen blue stars in a white field.

When a vessel fires a salute, it is a polite way of saying, "We do not need to keep our guns loaded on your account, for you are our friends." Sometimes, however, the supposed friend has proved an enemy, and the vessel has found it a great misfortune to have emptied her guns. For this reason, and also because a complimentary cannon ball once killed the man it was intended to honor, vessels now follow the practice of saluting with blank cartridges.

When an officer salutes, he points his drawn sword to the ground to show that he does not need to use it as a weapon of defense, and the salute of troops is still called "presenting arms"—that is, presenting them to be taken.

It is considered of great importance that a flag should always be properly saluted, and there are very rigid rules governing salutes to flags. When one of our ships meets the flagship of another nation at sea or in a foreign port, our vessel salutes first if the foreign vessel is commanded by an officer of superior rank ; but the commander

of our vessel always takes the precaution to exact a promise that his own flag shall receive a salute of gun for gun in return.

When one of our men-of-war steams into a foreign port, the flag of that country is hoisted and given the salute which is its due. If several ships of different nations are in one port at the same time, the flags are saluted one after another. This is a ceremony observed with great care, the flag of each country being run up separately and saluted. The flags of two countries must never be shown together in salute, but each in turn has the pole to itself.

When salutes are given to special officers, they are answered gun for gun. No more than twenty-one guns are ever fired in salute. The lowest number ever fired is five. A salute is always an odd number of guns, an even number being considered unlucky. Ships carrying less than fourteen guns do not salute.

Another way of saluting is to dip the sails or flag. No vessel of the navy is allowed to lower her sails or dip her colors to another vessel of the navy; but should a foreign vessel or a merchant ship of the United States salute in this way, the

compliment is to be instantly returned. At sea the flag is generally shown when falling in with another vessel. In port the colors are hoisted at 8 A. M., and kept flying till sunset. On legal holidays a salute to the flag of twenty-one guns is fired at noon. The boats of a man-of-war are required to keep their colors flying when absent from their ships.

In heraldry, red, white, and blue stand for the three great virtues—valor, purity, and truth. The same ideas have prevailed in all times and countries in regard to the meaning of colors. Our forefathers defined these symbols which they adopted as “the red telling of the blood shed by them for their country, the blue telling of the heavens and their protection, and the stars announcing the different States.” The poet interprets the meaning of the red, white, and blue of our flag in still another way when he says:

“The stars are the symbol of union,
 May they ever in unity wave;
 The white is the emblem of honor,
 The red is the blood of the brave.”

As long ago as the time of the Greeks and Persians ships began to talk to one another by

arranging to have the raising and lowering of their sails, and the placing of them in different positions, mean certain things. Ever since that time they have been learning to say more and more, and to say it clearly and well.

King James II. of England invented the system of signals by which the ships of different nations talk to one another at the present day. There have, of course, been many changes in the code since his time, but the principles are still the same. Besides this international code our navy, like that of other nations, has its secret code, known only to its own officers.

Nearly all these systems of signals are based upon the idea of giving numbers or letters to flags. Lights of different colors are used for night signals. Guns and cannons are very effective for signalling in a fog.

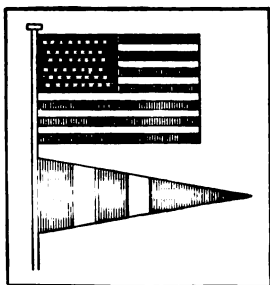
By "The Commercial Code of Signals for All Nations," which is now in use, a ship needs two sets of signal flags. One consists of ten flags, numbered from one to ten; and the other of twenty-one flags, named after letters of the alphabet; so that any question or answer may be spelled out. This means, however, would be too

slow for general use. A ship could not signal very rapidly if she were obliged to spell out every word. So the code has substituted a number of signals for the words and questions commonly needed. In the code book the signals are arranged in one column, and the words for which these signals stand in another. The example shows a page of a simple code, not the one in use, but one planned in the same way.



WORDS.	NUMBERS.	WORDS.	NUMBERS.
From	0123	Provisions	8221
Bound	5732	Longitude	3214
Cargo	8214	Latitude	9173
Passengers	9315	Is	1562
Disabled	6217	Have	1435
Help	1892	News	1792

When two ships meet at sea, they show their flags first. Then they raise signals telling their numbers; for every ship has a number as well as a name. In the code book the captains find the names opposite the numbers. A vessel can tell the port it comes from, whither it is bound, and whether it has letters to exchange, and many other things in the same way.

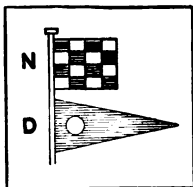
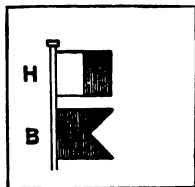
When a vessel, sailing under the Stars and



Signal for Opening Communication.

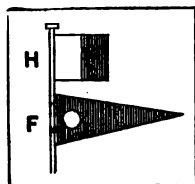
the United States by showing the same pennant alone. (In the illustrations  represents blue, and  red.)

To illustrate: Suppose a ship is in distress and wishes to ask for help; she may do so by the signal flag *H* above the flag *B*, signifying—Want immediate assistance. Or she may signal her distress by the flag for *N* above that for the letter *D*, meaning—I must abandon the vessel; thus:

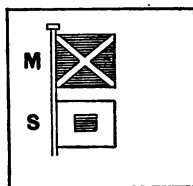


She would hope to receive from the vessel hailed some such favorable response as *H* above *F*, the signal for—We are coming to your assistance. Sometimes, however, danger is imminent for each and assistance impossible. The mariners on both vessels are

made to realize the grim perils of the seafarer when in reply the *M* is flown above the *S*, conveying the



sad words—Do the best you can for yourselves; no assistance can be given.



This is the method followed, though one would have to study the subject very closely to know all the variations in actual practice. In a high wind the flags would flutter so that it would be almost impossible to read them. In that case the vessel would use another set of signals arranged by means of black balls.

In the United States navy twenty-three flags are used for the national, or private, code, and nineteen for signalling vessels of other nations. In 1846 the United States navy adopted a national, or private, system of signals. This system was invented by Henry J. Rogers, superintendent of telegraphs, and follows the methods employed in telegraphing. All national code books are guarded with great care. They are bound in metal, and are very heavy, so that they will sink if cast into the sea. If one of our vessels was

captured in a sea fight, one of the first things the captain would do would be to cast his code book overboard. You see it is very necessary to guard the signal system of a navy with great care, for if it could be read by the enemy, the fleet would be at a grave disadvantage. It is also much more difficult than the international code. The secret of a simple code might be guessed by an expert signal officer, and messages of great importance betrayed to the enemy if the code could be too easily read.

Here is the story of some of the famous naval messages of history rendered by means of signal flags :

The story of Nelson's signal is best told in the words of the *Victory's* Signal Lieutenant, Pasco, the officer who received Nelson's orders to make it. "His Lordship," Lieutenant Pasco says, "came to me on the poop, and after ordering certain signals to be made, about a quarter to noon, said, 'Mr. Pasco, I want to say to the fleet, "England confides that every man will do his duty."' He added, 'You must be quick, for I have one more to add, which is for "close action."' I replied, 'If your Lordship will permit me to substitute

"expects" for "confides" the signal will soon be completed, because the word "expects" is in the vocabulary, and "confides" must be spelt.' His Lordship replied in haste, and with seeming satisfaction, 'That will do, Pasco, make it directly.' As the last hoist was hauled down, Nelson turned to Captain Blackwood, who was standing by him, and said, 'Now I can do no more. We must trust to the Great Disposer of all events and the justice of our cause; I thank God for this great opportunity of doing my duty.'" And Great Britain that day did not call upon her sons in vain, nor was the appeal to the God of Battles unheard, though the rejoicing of victory was turned into mourning at the loss of him who had so nobly done his duty in the nation's service."

On the night before the battle of Lake Erie (September 10, 1813), Commodore Perry showed to his brother officers a flag which he had prepared, and which was intended to be used on the morrow as a signal to go into action. The flag was eight or nine feet square, blue in color, and with the dying words of Lawrence, "Don't give up the ship," stitched upon it in large letters of white muslin. This flag and the signal book of

Perry are preserved in the Museum at Independence Hall, Philadelphia.

As I have said, our Government uses the utmost



"The Enemy is Trying to Escape."

care to keep its signal code secret, and with a view to greater safety makes frequent changes in it. Nevertheless, we are able, now and then, to catch a fragmentary knowledge of some of the signals. Thus, on the morning of July 3, 1898, there suddenly fluttered from the masthead of the *Oregon* three small flags, one above the other. The topmost was of white, with a black sphere in the middle; the next was half white and half black; and the lowest was white with a black cross covering most of its surface. The three flags repre-

sented respectively the figures "2, 5, 0," and meant "The enemy is trying to escape." You have not forgotten the stirring action that followed, which resulted in the destruction of the Spanish fleet.

In both the army and navy a system of flag signals known as "wigwag" is also in use. Only one small flag is necessary for this kind of signalling. The flag is fastened to a long staff, and is held upright when numbers are not being formed. To show you how messages are sent, we will say that when the flag is waved once toward the left it stands for one; when it is waved toward the right it means two; when it is dipped toward the ground it means three.

Arranging an alphabet from these signals we have:

1 — A	222 — J	2211 — S
11 — B	212 — K	2221 — T
2 — C	312 — L	2222 — U
22 — D	12 — M	1121 — V
31 — E	1311 — N	1312 — W
21 — F	1211 — O	2121 — X
121 — G	1222 — P	322 — Y
211 — H	1221 — Q	22312 — Z
311 — I	2111 — R	

End of a word — a circle.

End of a sentence — 2 circles.

End of a message — 3 circles.

A set of signals for numbers might also be arranged in this way, or the numbers might be spelled out.

Let us form a message with our alphabet, and see how it works.

Send — 2211 — 31 — 1311 — 22—a circle

Us — 3222 — 2211—a circle

Help — 211 — 31 — 312 — 1222—two circles.

A set of flags is used by the United States Weather Bureau to show if fair or stormy weather is expected, and also what winds are due in that locality. Some of the various arrangements, with their meanings, are shown below.

The weather flags proper are five in number, whose description and significance are as follows :

No. 1 is a plain, square flag, white in color, and when displayed alone means fair weather, stationary temperature.

No. 2 is of the same size, but entirely blue. Alone it means rain or snow, stationary temperature.

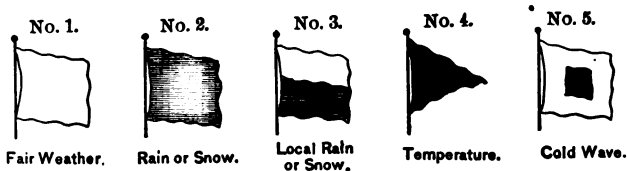
No. 3 is half white and half blue, and alone indicates local rain or snow, stationary temperature.

No. 4 is a black triangle and is known as the temperature flag.

No. 5 is No. 1, with a small black square in the middle, and indicates a cold wave.

No. 1, with No. 4 above it, indicates fair weather, warmer.

No. 1, with No. 4 below it, indicates fair weather, colder.





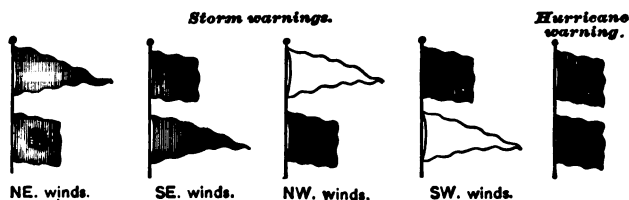
No. 2, with No. 4 above it, indicates rain or snow, warmer.

No. 2, with No. 4 below it, indicates rain or snow, colder.

No. 3, with No. 4 above it, indicates local rain or snow, warmer.

No. 3, with No. 4 below it, indicates local rain or snow, colder.

 represents blue, and  red.



The storm and hurricane warnings are indicated also by five flags. A storm warning is shown by a red flag with a black center, and indicates that a storm of marked violence is expected. The pennants displayed with the flags indicate the direction of the wind. The red pennant above

the storm warning indicates northeast winds; below, southwest winds. The white pennant above the storm warning indicates northwest winds; below, southwest winds.

By night a red light indicates easterly winds, and a white light above the red light westerly winds.

Two red flags with black centers, displayed one above the other, indicate the expected approach of a tropical hurricane, or one of those violent and dangerous storms that occasionally sweep across the Lakes and northern Atlantic coast. No night hurricane warnings are displayed.

In time of peace it is considered an insult to hoist the flag of one friendly nation over that of another. If a foreign flag is hoisted on shore, as it often is in compliment to some distinguished stranger, it must have the staff to itself. It is held an insult to take as a target in gun practice the flag of another nation.

An ensign reversed (union down) is a well-known signal of distress. The white flag is a flag of truce. At sea it is customary to hoist the flag of the enemy with the flag of truce. The red or bloody flag is a sign of mutiny. A red flag is

hoisted, too, when a vessel is taking on powder or other explosives. The yellow flag is a quarantine flag, and means that there is some contagious disease on board the vessel or in the hospital over which it is hoisted. The black flag with or without the skull and crossbones is the favorite flag of pirates, and shows that no mercy will be shown or quarter given. In prison use it is a signal to show that a condemned man has been executed.

All lines of steamers have their own house flags, which they fly at the mainmast. At the stern they show the flag of the country from which they come, and at the foremast the country they are bound for. "The Jack" flown at the foremast head shows that the vessel wants a pilot. If the Stars and Stripes float half-way up the main rigging, she wants a tugboat.

You may have noticed many steamers in the harbor, flying a blue flag with a square white center; that is the "blue Peter," and means that they will sail that day.

The national flag always floats at the Capitol, over the Senate Chamber and House of Representatives while those bodies are in session. In the various States the flag is generally raised over the

buildings where the legislature is holding its meetings. The flag is kept flying at all navy yards and naval stations of the Government, and also over many of the public buildings. The custom of displaying flags on schoolhouses has been growing in favor during the past few years. Each State has its own flag, which is hoisted on its public buildings or carried into battle or on parade with the national standard.

The right to place the national arms and flag on offices and dwellings occupied by United States consuls in foreign countries, is determined by treaties with those countries.

The deck of a vessel is as sacred as the soil of the country whose flag flies from the masthead. It was the violation of this law which caused our war with Great Britain in 1812. The jurisdiction of our Government extends to about three miles from shore. A child born on the high seas takes the nationality of the flag under which the ship is sailing. If born within three miles of our shore, the child is an American, no matter what the nationality of his parents or the flag of the ship may be.

There are two flag-making centers for our gov-

ernment flags—one at the Brooklyn navy yard, where all flags required for use on the Atlantic coast are made; and one at Mare Island, where the supply for use on the Pacific coast is manufactured. The foreign flags necessary for salutes are also made at these points. The designs for these flags are now sewed on instead of being painted, as was formerly done.

The perfect appearance of the stars on the flag is dependent on the most painstaking care. It is necessary that they should all be made by hand and put on by hand. The stars are cut from muslin after a star pattern of the prescribed size made of copper. By means of a chisel and a mallet used with the star pattern, as many as thirty folds of muslin can be cut through at once, leaving a pile of thirty uniform and perfect stars on the oak block. Another pattern is of the size the stars must be when in place on the flag.

The flags flown by American ships are of bunting made specially for the navy. It is entirely of wool of the best quality. Its color is tested by soaking it in fresh water for twenty-four hours, and by exposing it to the weather for ten days,

not less than thirty hours of which must be in bright sunlight.

All foreign flags used by the American navy are of one size—about thirteen by twenty-five feet. The national flag varies from thirty-six to four and one-half feet fly through eight sizes, and there are also different sizes of the Union Jack.

